

## **Ross Dowson archives -- correspondence -- Year 1963**

(Montreal correspondence -- below)

- 01\_00        Undated letter refers to Feb. 3 court date) to Mr. Spira: Synopsis of events leading to        arrest of 21 persons at a Toronto City Hall anti-nuclear arms demonstration
- 01\_09        Letter to Toronto Organizer, Metro Cttee. Communist Party of Canada, Comrade: propose joint protest against black US citizen convicted of traveling to Cuba
- 01\_14        Letter fragment (p.2 only) to Mauno (Nikkonen) re: case of the 21 arrested at a demonstration coming to court
- 01\_28        Letter to Comrade Colwyn W. (Edmonton): NDP situation in BC, pending purge in Ontario
- 02\_02        Letter to Colwyn W. (Edmonton) re: Alberta NDP and NDP purges of 9 in Ontario
- 03\_03        Letter to Ernie (T.), re: NDP tactics in BC and Branch internal matters; need him on staff in BC
- 03\_15        +Letter to Comrades, NC Vancouver: their view on quota for BC; Whitney group in contact with Peng, who is seeking reconciliation of BC forces
- 04\_17        Letter to the Editor (*Toronto Globe & Mail*) re: professor author compares Hungarian Revolution to Kronstadt
- 05\_09        Letter to Bob, Ocean Falls (BC): moving to Vancouver; introduction to Ernie T., expelled NDYers defense campaign in BC and ON
- 08\_07        Letter to Trailblazers first-ever Maritimes *Vanguard* Tour replying to their report from Cornerbrook Nfld; the LSA convention (in Vancouver), fighting expulsions in BC NDY (Youth) at the adult NDP convention (also in Vancouver); support and media coverage gained
- 08\_15        Letter to Berks, Newfoundland, re: RD's tight itinerary; the Vanguard tour into Nfld.; left active at NDP Regina convention
- 08\_16        Letter to Ernie (T., Vancouver), re: archival journal & IB files for BC, unification in BC
- 09\_30        Document: Minutes of E.C. (Toronto): Kent to speak on Algeria

- 11\_05 Letter to Dear Hannah (SWP, US), re: new book on Rivera; local poets include Joe R(osenblatt) around movement
- 11\_13 Letter to Birks, Fredericton: Cuban politics, Toronto events
- 11\_13B Letter to Pat Mitchell, Halifax: what's a-happening in Toronto?
- 11\_30 Letter to the Editor, Toronto *Daily Star*; Sir: your misinformation about the Trotskyists
- 12\_05 +Letter to Ruth B, Vancouver: the value of signed articles for the paper and her signing her article on the NDP SC
- 12\_99 Letter (undated, found in 1963) to Mauno Nikkanen, Vancouver re his clippings sent in and possibility of setting up book service

### **Montreal correspondence**

- 01\_15 Letter to Gabe G., Montreal: NDP developments, new publication planned in ON
- 03\_11 Letter to Alex (--?) re: the political nature of our differences with the NDP leadership over the Cuban missile crisis
- 09\_06 Letter to Serge Huard, Grand-Mère QC, a friend of Pierre Frank, (FI leader, France); introducing the LSA and its relation to the NDP, the FI, attitude to the PCC (CP in Quebec)
- 09\_23 (Transcription of handwritten letter to Dick (F., in Montreal), re: Cedric Cox speaking trip to Montreal
- 09\_30 Letter to Dick (F.), re: difficulty in Cox not speaking on Cuba; campus situation in Montreal
- 10\_05 Letter to John (R--?) and Dick (F.): re Cox's arrival, publicity; re Hamilton meeting
- 10\_11 Letter (first page missing, carbon turned) to Dick (F.), re: Cox meetings in Hamilton, Kitchener and York (U.), his speech at Toronto banquet; idea of a Quebec francophone Algerian support committee and details of contact with P.
- 10\_14 Letter to Mme D.-P., Dear Friend: on the possibility of setting up an Algeria support committee in Quebec

- 10\_17 Letter to Dick: re Nelson's role in Montreal; Hurricane relief work and Chinese Revolution anniversary in Toronto
- 11\_12 Letter to Dick (F): Alan Harris in Britain; Cuba and the CPC; Dick's academic work vs the movement; interest in Algeria in Quebec; Dick's activities in Montreal; activities in the Toronto branch
- 11\_15 Telegram text (transcribed from handwriting): Greetings to PSQ founding convention (sent in French)
- 11\_17 Letter to Dick, re: praise for article on CCND conference; telegram to PSQ convention and his report to follow; setting up the FPCC in Montreal
- 12\_06 Letter to *Workers Vanguard*, Montreal; Bob (Horn) and Dick, re: first issue of *La Lutte Ouvrière*, first solid moves towards building our movement in Quebec; on Bob & Edith (S.) and Fair Play for Cuba in Toronto
- 12\_09 Letter to Dick: letter sent to (CSN leader Michel) Chartrand re possible visit to Cuba
- 12\_12 Letter to Dick: searching for other Canadian figures for Cuba trip; Toronto literary "event" planned
- 12\_25 Letter to Dick: Xmas events, Algerian Cttee. work, history of ex-comrade Ken Johnstone, Olsons welcomed to Cuba by Fidel
- 12\_26 Letter to Dick and Bob (Horn), re: Xmas dinner in Toronto, where literary event a success, work on the FPCC bulletin, Teamsters local work, work with Maoists in Vancouver
- 12\_31 Letter to *L'Algérie Dans le Monde*, Algeria: Thank you for the sample copy of the journal and literature for our committees in Quebec and Ontario



No date 1963 (p.v)

Spira

Dear Mr. Spira;

Regarding your enquiry on behalf of the Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Church about the arrest of 21 people participating in an anti-nuclear arms demonstration at City Hall, I will try to give a short synopsis of the events as they took place:-

1. The demonstration was organized by the Toronto Youth Ad hoc Committee against nuclear Arms which included the New Democratic Youth, the Canadian Students for Nuclear Disarmament and other anti-war groups.
2. The demonstration after assembling at the Civic Square parking lot, marched to the Liberal and Conservative headquarters where it conducted short pickets. During the march and pickets care was taken by the demonstrators to follow police instruction and not block traffic on the sidewalks. The demonstration then moved up Yonge street taking care to keep to one side of the street, and along Queen St. to the City Hall.
3. At the City Hall, a short picket was conducted and the demonstrators moved into the South-West area in front of the cenotaph, where Peter Horbatiuk (secretariat member of the C.U.C.N.D.) was scheduled to address the demonstration. At this time, the police constable on duty moved the demonstrations into a group away from the sidewalk. A few minutes later, Police sergeant Stewart, warned the demonstrators that they needed a permit to speak (which as far as we are concerned it is not true, since no bylaw exists on speaking in front of the city hall), then he came back after a short interval and warned that this was an unlawful assembly and the demonstration must disperse. This was refused by the leaders of the demonstration, since the demonstration was entirely peaceful and such was not an unlawful assembly. After a few words with the spokesman of the demonstration Allan Engler, a police car and a Black Maria arrived on the scene and the Police sergeant arrested Horbatiuk, Engler and one of the picket captains Dick Fidler who had started the Demonstrators picketing again.

It must be emphasized that during the demonstration and the speech, there were no disturbances, hence no cause for the charge of unlawful assembly. Any disturbances were caused by spectators, who disagreed with the purposes and slogans of the demonstration. The largest number of spectators were attracted by the interference of the police and the arrival of the police and the arrival of the police vehicles.

4. After the initial arrests, more police arrived at the cenotaph. More speakers got up to speak and were subsequently arrested. I myself was arrested, although



I myself was arrested although I was not in the demonstration, when attracted by the demonstration, while passing by on my way to one of the downtown stores. I came to the aid of one of the picketers, whose sign was being wrested from him by one of the police. When I was taken to the police station I was charged with "creating a disturbance by shouting". Needless to say I was not shouting, and have witnesses to prove this. My charge is fairly representative of the charges laid against the 18 other demonstrators. The arrests were carried out at random, and their purpose was to break up the demonstration. Several of the demonstrators were treated quite roughly by the police during the arrests.

4. While the arrests were being made the demonstrators carried on an orderly picket, keeping to one side of the sidewalk so that pedestrians could pass.

5. After about 20-30 minutes the picket captains decided to disperse the demonstrators and started to move west towards the Civic square. While the demonstrators were leaving the scene, the Police continued arresting people at random from the rear of the picket line. At least 3 people were arrested in this way.

6. During the time of the arrests, two pedestrians, one a passing postman and another a medical student on his way home from Christmas shopping were arrested when they asked the police why they were arresting the demonstrators. They were charged separately on the most serious offence "Obstruction of the Police", and were released on bail several hours later. The postman probably faces loss of his job if convicted on this charge. At least two others including myself were arrested although not participants in the demonstration.

6. At the police station, groups of the arrested people were questioned in private and held for identification. All the 19 arrested (aside from the other two innocent bystanders) face charges of unlawful assembly. Several others face 2-3 charges, mostly "causing a disturbance by shouting" etc... You can obtain particulars by phoning Peter Horbatiuk at RU/3-4344.

7. The question of a permit, although the police used this as a pretext to arrest, was not mentioned in the charges. In fact there is no legal apparatus to obtain a permit. I believe Peter Horbatiuk has attempted to test the permit apparatus by going through all the red tape. He was refused permission and is still waiting for a letter to this effect. The official who mentioned that no demonstrations could take place at City Hall without the presence of a city official. There is no precedence for this decision as far as I can determine.

The case has been arraigned for Febl/63 at 2.00 p.m. in Court A at city hall, after having completed a partial case for the prosecution on the first charge of unlawful assembly.

I am sure that the defendants would appreciate any help that you could give. As far as myself is concerned

I intend to defend my own case but would appreciate some legal advice if you could arrange it.

I hope that I have given you a picture of the events as they took place and hope to hear from you again on this matter.

Until then I remain,

Fraternally yours

Ross Dowson.



THE LEAGUE FOR SOCIALIST ACTION  
81 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Canada

January 9, 1963

Toronto Organizer  
Metro Committee of the Communist Party of Canada  
Cecil Street  
Toronto

Dear Comrade

Somewhile back we proposed that a committee be initiated to carry on continuing activities here in Canada in solidarity with struggles to defend civil rights in the United States

Last year we joined with you in front of the US Consulate in protest against the US Government's persecution of the American Communist Party.

We are still of the opinion that it would be valuable if we could move forward in the direction of realizing our original objective. For instance on December 11 the CP went on trial in Washington as the first political party in US history to be brought into criminal court. The Gus Hall-Ben Davis Defence Committee has urged that protests be forwarded to Attorney General Kennedy's offices asking him to stop all proceedings under the McCarran Act. We think something should be done here in Canada.

William Worthy, correspondent of the Baltimore Afro-American was convicted of re-entering the US from a visit to Cuba without a passport and given a three month sentence. An ad hoc group of prominent Americans are urging demonstrations across the US in protest of an award by the B'nai B'rith and the Anti Defamation League to President Kennedy because of the Worthy case. The protest statement has been signed by Linus Pauling, author James Baldwin, playwright Lorraine Hansbury, author of Raisin in the Sun, among others.

The award is being handed Kennedy following an address that he will be giving at a banquet in Washington on January 31. The ceremony will be televised. In some cities ADL and B'nai B'rith offices are being picketed on both January 15th and 31st. The banquet itself will be picketed. The B'nai B'rith headquarters in Toronto is at the Park Plaza hotel.

We would appreciate your contacting us just as soon as possible to discuss the possibilities of action along these lines.

fraternally

Ross Dowson



to Mauno

-2-

first page carbon turned

EU 1962-64 NR (14)  
Jan 17/63

the x's mark us. The cartoon should help our cause at the courts this Friday. That is when the case of the 21 comes up. Did the local papers report our victory for free speech in the parks here. Last week the parks department agreed to remove the present restrictions that hem in political speeches into three of the worst parks in Toronto--it has to go before council but I think it will win. Joe R was the man who did that job. This Friday will see Andrew Brewin and possibly David Lewis enters the courts on behalf of the 21 half of whom are us. Brewin raised the question and was relieved to hear that I would conduct my own defence

In a few days we will be sending you a raft of material on the discussion about expulsion struggle strategy in Vancouver. I hope you got the ~~first~~ bulletin initiating the discussion on the unification of the world movement. You had better read it now as there are a bunch more heading your way in the next week.

Anticipating an early reply to this note

fraternally

ROSS



January 28, 1963

Colwyn Williamson, *Edmonton*

Dear Comrade;

Sorry to be so long in picking up your letter of December 30. It arrived too late for us to follow your advice to "hold off references to the Fellowship until its affiliation had gone through." Of course we have made no mention of the latest information that you forwarded us. Our purpose in the mid-December issue was to use the Montreal and Edmonton groups to legitimize independent formations in the NDP and particularly the ISA. I doubt that anyone in either the Edmonton or Montreal groups would take exception to our handling the matter. One of the editors of the New Left Commentary dropped in to see us during the holiday and was extremely friendly. They are quite a diverse group--all acquainted with the Trotskyist position. My impression is that they are not at all taking advantage of the situation in Quebec. The NDP there is to the left of the national movement and ~~not~~ ~~not~~ to a large degree due to specific circumstances in the province of Quebec about which the Commentary is dead silent.

It is good to see that such rapid progress has been made in Edmonton over the last few months. We have always known that it is one of the better areas in the country. We have turned up subscribers and won a good response from various persons but just haven't had the break of coming across anyone who proved capable of working as a revolutionary ~~socialist~~ socialist and we are not in a position to colonize anyone there. But it looks like you are filling the bill. A faculty NDP club and affiliation of the Fellowship to the NDP is certainly a good and big beginning. The responsibility that you have been given to produce speakers and panellists in the constituencies should put you into contact with some good types--they are probably few but there are some no doubt as Edmonton is an important community and it has a radical past.

I take it that Ernie Tate is in contact with you --that you got the material on the BC expulsions from him. The attack on Cox, the extension of the witch hunt into such a direction makes it all the more easy to show anyone what it is all about. Like the editors of the NDY Viewpoint a few months back wrote--RCMP investigations are not good, even bad but not so bad when they are directed against the Trotskyists. By moving against Cox and of course Strachan's attack on the union leadership the right wing has showed its hand to many. The Pulp and Sulphite Workers is still commenting on the case. The next issue of New Left Commentary will be commenting on it and the overall reaction is no doubt being taken into account by the right wing here in Toronto.

A couple of weeks ago the Ontario NDP provincial executive heard a report from the provincial youth leader to the effect that 6 clubs in the Toronto area are Trotskyist and at least 50% of the membership. The reported that they are investigating 9 persons. The PE approved the expulsion of known Trotskyists so the ax could fall any moment but we are thinking that the reaction to the BC expulsions and the Cox case may well intimidate them.



We are also involving ourselves in a campaign which we anticipate should make them think twice about following up their investigations with action. We know that they have taken a formal decision to dissolve the Metro Toronto youth committee as "Trotskyist dominated." They have expelled the vice-president from the adult movement by withholding his ~~name~~ membership renewal. But we have moved out through the Metro committee to launch a campaign for a national referendum on nuclear arms. The name of the expelled vice-president and of the educational director who is one of the nine being investigated appears on the appeal for support of the petition. We have also in the last week organized a Youth Committee Against Nuclear Arms which we will be an essential part of regardless of what happens in the NDY--which could carry the petition forward if and when they dissolve the Metro Committee and keep us in contact with whatever survives a purge of the scope that the brass are contemplating of the NDY.

We are hoping to block the purge. The more firmly we entrench ourselves the more difficult it will be for them--it will them more. However it is not at all excluded that they will proceed anyway. They moved against Cox from a strictly opportunist viewpoint--to clear themselves of the Cuba taint--but it is apparent that it has boomeranged on them. They know of course that we will fight. If they make the next moves towards expulsions we will know that they have decided to dump the whole youth group-- Everyone here is ready for the fight come what may. They hoped to chip off a couple of our students who come from eminently respectable families with connections with the top brass--but they have failed. Not that we are looking forward to such a situation but I hear from Ernie that while we were almost completely wiped out of the NDY we have more contacts than ever around the ISA study classes.

Of course a whole new area is opening up for us. ...through the Sin-Soviet dispute. About a year ago an old timer came down to see me with the intention of getting my reaction to his returning to the CP--he was one time very prominent in the Ukrainian periphery. I tried to direct him back into ISA activity and into the NDP but with no success. I went out to see him yesterday and he told me that he never met such a collection of political zombies as in the CPC all his life. I have just finished talking to the Metro Toronto CP organizer about forming a joint picket line protesting the freedom award of the Anti-Defamation League going to US president Kennedy. No dice. However I feel confident that we will make some inroads. Some YCLers phoned the other day suggesting that they would like to have a discussion with a couple of us. We took one of the Chinese pamphlets around to national leader Leslie Morris' nomination meeting last week for sale. About 45 attended and we sold 6 copies. We are going to put a real blitz on with the latest issue of the Vanguard containing the article on the ~~Sino-Soviet~~ Chinese-Soviet dispute.

Well now that you have received several issues of our paper, I hope you are getting the International Socialist Review, and have got a bit of a picture of the political situation here I would like to know what you think of our work. I gather that you did not terminate your relationship with the BLL for reasons of any basic political disagreement. If you have any disagreements with our political views I am most anxious to discuss them with you to see if they can be straightened out.

The situation in Canada is very favorable for our movement--the relationship of forces is good. What left, what socialist currents, there are in and around the NDP. We have considerable influence in the CP, particu-



In the industrial east is quite weak and what with the Soviet-Chinese dispute and the revolutionary developments within the Soviet areas themselves were are in a good position to by-pass them. My impression is that we have as many if not more viable forces in the Toronto area right now. We have some big gaps to fill in to take on the pyslognomy of a national movement--Edmont is one of them

of.

As you now doubt are aware we are in the process unifying the world movement. The decisive forces in the International Committee are already clearly in favor of the unification. The only serious block is the position of the SLL but as we move further in the direction of unification it seems to me that it will have a hard time to stand aside. It has been known before to make sudden veeres and I anticipate that it too will swing over. This unification even though it does not involve large forces other than Ceylon, possibly Japan and a few spots in Latin America---what with the revolutionary crisis in Latin America, ~~the superb~~ the superb role of the Castro leadership and the shattering of the world Communist movement will give the Trotskyist program a tremendous appeal.

I know that it is very difficult to keep up with political developments in isolation in Edmonton. I am wondering if it is not possible in the next few weeks for you to take a short visit to Lloydminster on the Alta-Sask border. We have an excellent group of comrades there who have the facilities and would be very happy to put you up. The most easily locatable comrade is Vic Bystrom. They are all quite advanced and able comrades. For some years we have been urging some of them to go into Edmonton. With your being there it may be easier for a couple of them to see their way clear. In fact with you being in Edmonton we would seriously consider sending one of our younger comrades out there. I am always leery about sending one comrade into an area--particularly when nearly all comrades in a position to carry out such action are young and relatively inexperienced. But with your being there--with due allowance for your security which is a very sensitive matter if I know Canadian universities--the situation is quite different. The information that you could ~~for~~ pass along from your educational work in the NDP could prove invaluable--that alone would be a tremendous help.

We have quite a bit of important material down here that I would send along to you if you give me the word---how is your address for tightly rolled second class mail?

We would be pleased if from time to time you could keep us informed of developments in the Edmonton area. And we could certainly use the odd contribution to the Vanguard. The first was a welcome addition to the paper.

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We have quite a bit of important material down here that I would send along to you if you give me the word---how is your address for tightly rolled second class mail?

We would be pleased if from time to time you could keep us informed of developments in the Edmonton area. And we could certainly use the odd contribution to the Vanguard. The first was a welcome addition to the paper.

fraternally

Ross Dowson



February 2, 1963

Colwyn Williamson  
10994--126 Street  
Edmonton, Alta  
Dear Colwyn

Waiting for a reply to my rather longer letter of a week or so ago. In the meantime I gather from Cliff that the Alberta section of the NDP held a convention. I have been a little behind on these matters or I would have raised it in the last letter. I think it would be a very good thing if we had an article on this convention all the more so since you are right in there and probably some of the comrades in Lloydminster too.

The deadline for this coming issue of the Vanguard is February 11th here. It would be fine if you were able to shove anything in the mail for us on the Sunday night February 10th. It would probably get to us on the 11th afternoon and certainly Feb 12 morning. We have no idea what happened there and so no idea of the importance and the space we should allow. But off hand I would say three pages of 20 lines sixty characters to a line. Possibly there was something in the latest Commonwealth. But unfortunately I do not have a copy handy at this time of writing. The last issue gave front page lead article to the referendum on ~~xx~~ nuclear arms. All the comrades here were so elated that they seized both copies to take up with them to a conference that is being held in Guelph today.

The referendum is a big lever for us. As you will see from the Commonwealth we tied John Wilson in on the release--Wilson has just been expelled by the brass here. Engler is also under investigation--along with 8 others. It looks right now that this act on our part has worked to forestall the expulsion of the 9 and the brass will content themselves with reorganizing the Ontario youth. We cannot be sure -- they may contemplate reorganizing it and compelling everyone to reapply--then weed out the left. But it looks like they wont expell in the traditional way. No actions should be taken on the Wilson case as yet. The enclosed leaflet was circulated to a youth conference in Hamilton by Wilson--we intend in the next day or so to circulate it to all provincial council members (Ont)

I am sending a copy of this letter to our comrades in Lloydminster Alberta. Would you contact them at once and let them know whether you are writing the article up or they are. I am not at all sure that they were able to send anyone to the convention.

fraternally

Ross Dowson



Sunday March 3, 1963

Vancouver;

Dear Ernie;

I was going to get working on the paper tonight but I cleaned out my mail box on Saturday and found your important letter.

Read the information on the Cox riding with interest. Haven't thought it out just yet how far we should go in reporting such developments in these throwaway sheets of the Vanguard but will you can be sure use this material in some way. Feed us anything and everything of this kind. Really important developments.

Vern has wired Cox on his Cuba speech edited by me--this is possibly why he hasn't given us the go-ahead with publication. But the best thing is for him to move out. Since he gave us his consent to go ahead with publication originally I was telling Vern that if we don't hear from him shortly we should go ahead anyway. We need this pamphlet for election work.

Did you see a copy of Cameron's circular to his constituents re the intervention of the US State Department and nuclear arms. Terrible--completely defeatist. We have this in our files for future use. Al E picked one up when in Ottawa. We will have to keep right on top of these developments. We will have to be continually assessing these leftists currents and their significance. I had the impression that their forces were just slowly being dissipated away and that we would not be faced with anything such as Shannon talked about--a split away. It would be very good to try to get closer to Cox and that group. If things should come to such a split as he talks about why this would present us with a big tactical problem--~~maximum~~ if we were to fail to block such a split away we would have to consider going out with them--at least a part of us. But this is a little distance away and may not even exist. You pose a more immediate problem what you call a great opportunity--which it would be in Point Grey.

Yes I think that the League certainly should run a candidate in Quadra if the NDP doesn't. It is almost excluded that the CP would--their line leaves just a situation as voting for Green open to them. It is apparent with Casgrain adding her voice to Regier that there is a serious likelihood that the NDP would leave it open. This of course would be a violation of the whole significance of the NDP. I would be surprised if Ruth did not know about this--they impressed me as knowing all about such matters. When is nomination day--you have to have \$200 right there on the line and your forces have to be prepared to go into action practically immediately. Time must be short. I think you will have to talk about it openly. The idea of running Joe is a good one--it appeals to my sense of justice and drama. But there are some difficulties. I think that it would be much better that you ran--you or Ruth or Malcolm. If we had one or two other candidates it would be good to run a class war prisoner but it would be difficult to run one who is your only candidate. Besides Joe was imprisoned by Social Credit not the Progressive Conservatives--he poses another matter too and not the nuclear arms question. On top of that I think we have to have comrades who are closer tied to us run as candidates--people who are going to represent the centre of the party.



Malcolm and Ruth are the ones who are going to be under the gun in the weeks immediately following the election as leaders of the LSA. Malcolm is no doubt tired and we would have to carry the campaign by and large but this wise we have less difficulty than with Joe who is imprisoned. I am afraid Malcolm's statements would be somewhat sectarian too. But he would be a terrific candidate--of national repute. And could we put on a struggle against the expulsions after we had run as independent NDPers. ~~Imphaxat~~ I do not know but it might be possible for someone like Malcolm or Ruth to get a whole batch of well known NDPers to actually formally endorse his candidature. Ruth would be a top flight candidate--possibly somewhat opportunist but we could suffer that in the light of what the brass would do. Without the benefit of an exchange of opinion with you I would think that Ruth or Malcolm should be first choice as they are both NDPers, well known and publicly identified as LSA'ers. After that I would favor you. Well no matter what Ruth and Reg said as to their feelings about you politically and their impressions of the branch we here have absolute "trust in you." You would be best ~~xxxxxx~~ from the point of carrying our political line but the other circumstances surrounding Malcolm and Ruth I think put you third place in the contest. Do you think that the LSP is really going to leave it open. This is quite a different situation from Hastings-Frontenac. They would no doubt like to but it seems to me that they dare not. This all has to be discussed but it would seem to me to be a good idea to start pressing the leadership on this question--I suppose any club we have people in has publicly and roundly condemned Regier's statement. When is the nomination going to take place---we should press the provincial office to answer--to set the date--sic; the press on them--force them to show their hand. If they make a statement to the effect they are not contesting--we should consider several courses---work on the Quadra membership to call a meeting on their own to discuss the whole matter--we could consider putting our names forward to be official candidates--let the office refuse to accredit us. If they have sunk the constituency--we could consider calling a mass meeting of the left to consider the situation. Yes it would be tremendous for us to run--keep quiet and then step up at zero hour nomination day. But it would seem to me even better if we could shape up a whole mass protest action through which we could even seriously put forward someone like Ruth to be the candidate of the left--with the left from all over the city moving in to work in the campaign. We would present a minimum program which would be suitable to the left and us too. Didn't the last BC convention come out against NATO. Out of such an action as this would come a broad principled left wing in which the LSA would be firmly established as the leadership

Well think it over but I think you have to open up discussion and decide some courses of action as nomination deadline must be very close. Ruth probably knows executive members in Quadra

This is a hell of a time for you to decide to get a job is you can possibly do otherwise. Can you hold out until at least after the election and possibly until our convention. Even if we had the money we could not very well decide to make you a full time organizer from here for Vancouver I think that you should seriously consider putting forward what you raised to the executive as a motion---that we adopt in principle the idea that you as organizer should go on a full time basis and that you should be paid as it is possible for the branch to do so. Let's put out a motion and then let them show their hand accordingly. Let them say they have no confidence in you except as someone who does it for free. Then we would ask them to reopen elections perhaps. We could very well intercede in such a discussion--could very well comment on such a motion and what came out of it.



It would be a real education for the branch and could mark a real step forward in solving the problems that confront us there. The fact that ~~not in anyway inhibit you from putting the heat on other comrades to get jobs. You are the organizer and it is a real contribution to the branch for you to work full time--and be willing to accept what little the branch at this time can afford. The other comrades have to get out and work so that we can finance the operations of the party and I would tell them so too. I think that it is a top item on the agenda and if we dont solve it now we will have to solve it at the convention.~~ you are unemployed should not in anyway inhibit you from putting the heat on other comrades to get jobs. You are the organizer and it is a real contribution to the branch for you to work full time--and be willing to accept what little the branch at this time can afford. The other comrades have to get out and work so that we can finance the operations of the party and I would tell them so too. I think that it is a top item on the agenda and if we dont solve it now we will have to solve it at the convention.

Why the hell do you say that you are a little dissapointed that you didn't see a review of the Tripoli program in the paper yet. Why dont you say why the hell are you not reviewing it or when the hell are you going to review it or at least advertize it or comment on it in some way. And I will answer. Yes I think we will have room for it in this issue. We are trribly pressed for space. Yes I forgot completely about the correction of Reg's article. Terrible. I forgot. I did for Cliff is no longer editing the paper. We agreed that I would take over again. Cliff is not able to edit the paper. Very enthusiastic and well menaing but ~~xxxxixy~~ still quite superficial, given to snap decisions, very careless, and one hell of a memory. Did Reg show you the letter he received from Cliff. I pressed him to write it--he wasn't even going to do that. And it is an incredible letter--it suggests that everyone other than Cliff was responsible for the error--when he was entirely responsible. Some of the editing he was doing on comrades articles was without any real justification. Besides some comrades in the branch were questioning his work as organizer and I felt that he had to be given every break to rise to this task first. Now as for that addenda to your article that Russia is a "deformed workers State --that is my fault. Absolutely inexplicable. Just carelessness. Do you think we need a correction.? It had better be this issue so let me know at once. What with missing on Reg's last issue I am inclined to think we will have to let it go. Did Reg say anything?

Edmonton has all the documents. I wrote him a couple of letters--he thinks he is a Deutcherite of some kind. He never broke politically from the SLL--but he has some ideas about the new revolutionary forces not necessarily being Trotskyist. I havent taken this up as he puts this forward somewhat shamefacedly and beaised I havent had time. My impressions are all favorable. I sent him the whole batch and havent heard from him since--but I would imagine that it will take him some time and of course is shaking him up a bit.

Yes I thought that Hansen did a very good job. A devastating job but I thought of such a character as to ~~xxxxxx~~ permit the Br to laugh at themselves. Helen thinks however that it deprives them of their dignity. ~~xxxxxx~~ Englishmen, at least SLLers cannot laugh at themselves I gather.

The comrades here are all impressed by the YSF and keep promising me that the will write something. I will press them again. Of course they are all very busy as are you out there. If I fail this time I will write something up myself.

Yes I will make every effort to get out in Vancouver well before the convention. That little job on Harold is just waht we did not need--we had good an sufficient organizational grounds covered by the constitution that we did not need to get into political charges which I take it he was not ever faced with.



Thought your letter to the Sun on Trotskyism was quite good. Ruth's was terrible. I thought we wanted to Canadianize Trotskyism. ..here it is an ancient Russian feud--not 20th century Marxism. Thought KenO's press release on Fair Play was not very good either--instead of exposing Strachan it could only aggravate him and company..

many many other matters but it is now twelve o'clock and I must get home and get down here to work out the coming issue I want off the press this week.

affectionately

Ross

March 15, 1963.

NC Vancouver

Dear Comrades;

We would like to know as soon as possible what you think of the quota that we have suggested to Vancouver, whether you think it is realizable or should be adjusted either way. The total objective that we suggested in the last minutes of the PC is pretty well what we must have and, taking into account what we have raised in the past and the growth over the past year, seems highly possible of attainment. In line with the proposition of the PC that Toronto raise \$2,000, I put a motion on the floor that we adopt that as the Toronto objective. It passed unanimously. If you think that the Vancouver suggested quota is unsatisfactory for any reason I would like to know as soon as possible as we are going to press with the second election issue of the Vanguard.

We would also like to hear any criticisms and suggestions of the election issue.

I am attaching a letter that we received the other day from Byron P. Johnson. I have replied to it -- I wrote him that I would be taking the matter of recognition up at the next PC meeting but have also posed the question -- why wait for recognition before taking part in the Vanguard drive. It seems to me that this proposition comes to us from Byron via Whitney. --Although we might be mistaken. At any rate we would appreciate having your opinion as to ~~how~~ to handle this matter.

*how*

For your information Whitney has been keeping some kind of contact with Comrade Peng, who of course is vitally concerned with the Chinese comrades. When I was in Paris last fall I had a long afternoon discussion with Peng on the situation. I gave him much of the information that you have forwarded to me, gave him my appreciation of the Whitney group which I believe is substantially the same as yours. He asked me what was to be done. I told him that the question of fusion was out, absolutely. I also told him that it was apparent that the comrades who had been in branch one when given the opportunity to work in the branch obviously did not know how to do so, granted the best of intention, which was highly questionable. Since they appear to still consider themselves to be Trotskyists and appear to in some way to be maintaining some kind of connections with one another I could see no other solution than their return to some kind of city executive which if it did not hold out the possibility of collaboration in the immediate period would assure the least possible conflict, eventually leading, on the basis of further experiences, to some kind of settlement of the difficulties.



Of course I told him that whatever arrangement was made would have to be made with your agreement---and that we were having a convention ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ shortly and the whole matter would be decided there.

From a recent letter from Peng I gather that Whitney is continuing correspondence and that Peng has communicated some of our conversation to him. Whitney has not communicated with us here. But it is not excluded that in the next period you will be hearing some gossip about the center here and its attitude to Whitney and company. In passing I might mention that I sent one copy of an internal bulletin Trotskyism Betrayed via Jerry L to one of them out there who was translating a document of Peng's---Peng was quoting the document and of course went from English to Chinese and it had to be taken back to English again, so the document was needed.

Re the convention date. The IC conference date is April 9. We tried to get it pushed back but we have been informed to day by Preston that at most it could only be by a day or so. Comrade JH has asked us not to attempt to freeze the date that we suggested to you in the last minutes because of possible other arrangements. Of course that proposed date was consultative. We wanted to know your opinion -- we wanted to know as to its suitability for you out there. But since we have had no further word from JH everything is still hanging fire. We will let you know just as soon as we get any solid information so that in consultation with you we can fix the date of the convention. One document has already been drawn up but is being revamped considerably.

fraternally

Ross D



April 17, 1963  
81 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ont.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir;

Some two years after the heroic uprising to establish socialist democracy in Hungary, Khrushchov was reported in a dispatch appearing in the Globe and Mail to have said ; "The revolution or counter-revolution, whatever you call it, has caused enough harm."

Whatever you call it ! As if it makes no difference which it was !

But isn't that what assistant Professor Novak says in effect in his article on the Krondstadt Mutiny appearing in your April 17 issue?

He links the Hungarian Revolution to the Krondstadt counter-revolution as if there is no difference. But the struggle in Hungary was a revolution against Stalinism, and from the broadcasts monitored in the West and published in a booklet by The Free Europe Committee in New York made by many of its partisans in the name of a return to Lenin's way. The Krondstadt Mutiny was a counter-revolution which the Russian revolutionaries, including General Tukhachevsky who was murdered by Stalin and is only now being rehabilitated, ~~did not~~ ~~predecessors~~ before them, from Cromwell, to Mirabeau, to Washington, had to eliminate so that their cause could go forward.

Trotsky, whose name is inscribed on the banner of the revolution, doesn't dismiss the event in his History of the Russian Revolution with a few lines as Professor Novak writes. He doesn't mention the Krondstadt Mutiny at all, for this work closes with the triumph of the revolution in October 1917. Trotsky wrote elsewhere on this incident that took place in 1921. Those interested will find his views most accessible in the noted historian Isaac Deutcher's biography of Leon Trotsky available in the public library.

sincerely

Ross Dowson



May 9, 1963  
81 Queen Street West.  
Toronto

Ocean Falls

Dear Bob

It was very good to hear from you. Haven't had much of a chance to initiate correspondence over the past while -- glad you took it on along with the money that you picked up from assorted sympathizers.

The 19th of May---sounds like some fatal day--anniversary date. --the boat still comes in regularly doesn't --and you don't have to make reservations to get on it. Or is it like the end of a jail sentence. At various times I have quit jobs and as the day that terminated my employment approached I always felt good --as if it was the end of a sentence ---but it wasn't it was only a period in between sentences to work as a wage laborer.

I hope that you go into Vancouver. The situation has vastly improved for us there. Now that we have a headquarters there has been a transformation. We have attracted new people---in fact the best of the youth. You could make a real contribution to the branch, to the movement in Vancouver. These youth, real revolutionary types are sadly lacking in experience--they have ~~enthusiasm~~ ~~enthusiasm~~ enthusiasm--which will be good for guys like you who have been tied up for a long time in practical trade unionism. It will give you a lift. But few if any of them have had any solid experience in the real working class movement and so you would be very good for them.

I doubt if you know the organizer Ernest Tate. He is an excellent comrade. He has a solid grounding in our ideas---he was at the Trotsky school ~~and~~, he is young and a hard worker and has had for his years quite an good experience in the trade union movement. He is an operating engineer. I know that you would find it a real pleasure to work with him--he could get you quickly oriented into the work of the branch. There is no doubt whatsoever in my mind that you should make ~~every~~ ~~effort~~ make all the necessary arrangements to move into Vancouver. While Angus and many of the other comrades scattered at various points across the country do a terrific job in their localities they just aren't able to make the contribution that they are capable of either to the class or to the party stuck out in these out of the way communities. Vancouver is a key area in the country. There is hardly anything in EC outside of Vancouver and what there is can't be organized directed without having a strong center, a strong leadership and directive in Vancouver itself.

Looks like the right wings attack on us here in the East is going to give a lift to dissident NDPers in Vancouver and pose the possibility of organization of a national left wing current. That was quite an impressive meeting at the Hillcrest hall that we reported in the last issue.



ue of the Vanguard. Looks like Macey who is legal adviser of our expelled youth in BC and Clifford are going right ahead. Another meeting has been called in the Hillcrest hall. We are giving the brass here a run like I am sure they never expected. The movement(NDD) is in bad shape, they the brass have been fairly successful in turning it into an electoral machine but he have struck a few sparks, and certainly raised a lot of doubts about the leadership and its attack on the left youth. One of the clubs has gone on record demanding that the executive reinstate all the expelled and seriously get about coming to grips with the problems of building the movement. Another club took a stand for a fair trial--not quite as good---but in the circumstances it is a vote of non-confidence in not only the provincial executive but the council too. Because it was openly declared that ~~xxxxx~~ passage of such a motion would signify that--such a motion was defeated at another constituency. At every riding meeting these days a couple of the youth are appearing, distributing a leaflet which scores a few points and seeking permission for a hearing. The fact that the executive has not even deigned to reveal the evidence that it claims to have proving the expelled are members of another party(the YSA) has been a big factor in our favor, throwing the whole action into doubt. The meeting the expelled held here in Toronto last week was a big success--about 125 persons attended. There is a lot of self criticism going the rounds but it is obvious from various reports I have heard that they did very well indeed. In the next week we hope to edit the meeting speeches down to a workable size and publish them in a pamphlet. We will take this on the tour. This should keep the case bubbling away during the summer months. ~~When we get back to the Toronto office we will have a meeting~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ We understand that the provincial council will not be meeting until the fall and have heard rumours that they are now going to spring the evidence...that we have forced their hand. In the meantime we hope to have laid the argument down firmly and squarely that the evidence is not matter and that it is truly an attack on leftists for their ideas

We had a very well attended forum last night ---many of the youth made excellent contributions. There were a considerable number of new youth there and right now an intensive campaign is underway to pull the best together. On all counts we are going to come out of this stronger than ever. On the surface the actions of the brass would appear irrational---but they knew that we were a powerful factor in the youth---that we were picking up everyone worthwhile---and they had no alternative. Of course they have not really resolved anything. Because in this experience we have strengthened our forces and have sufficient to play a role of ~~xxx~~ semi-independent character which will soon renew all kinds of connections with the party.

It is really not yet clear whether there is ~~sufficient~~ basis for the launching of a national formation of some kind. A short while ago one of our leading youth had a long discussion with a Jack Shapiro who is a prominent activist in the Regina area NDP and a leftist of sorts. He assured him that they would try to set up some kind of connections. ~~Meanwhile~~ Their are leftist forces in Edmonton area already organized in the Woodsworth-Irvine Fellowship and amongst the staff of the university there. The next month or so we will have to plumb the possibilities there.

We havent frozen the date yet for the national convention but it will probably be around the end of July and certainly will be in Vancouver---looking forward to seeing you there already well integrated in the branch. What can we do to consolidate the presi--



the good work that you have done in Ocean Falls. I suppose everyone has subscriptions to the Vanguard. What about the International Socialist Review? Is there anyone there who we could really consider committed to our ideas in the fuller sense?

fraternally

Ross Dowson



Please forward to  
Nova Scotia NB

Wednesday Aug 7/63

Touring LSA:

Well it is good to see that you have become politicians too. Your greetings to the convention were well timed and well framed - and made a big and proper impression. The convention sent its greetings for the good and very valuable work you are doing.

The convention was a big success. Reg B told me it was the most decisive one we have ever had. We adopted a resolution on the LSA + YSA relationships + settled a dispute out there. We adopted the NDP resolution and settled with a sectarian tendency very firmly, altho that was not the intent of the resolution. We took a clear and unmistakable position favoring unification in Vancouver and other matters beside. We will be sending out a report upon my return.

While there I was able to get on a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr interview on the Don Wilson radio program which was stated for Algeria dealt much with the LSA. They tell me that it has a big listening audience and the comrades thought it was good and learned from it too I think. We held two meetings - one on the expulsions of the LSA - the other on Algeria. Got on the Jack Webster program too.

Thought you might like to get a bit of a line on the Convention - the end of the 2nd day. I am enclosing a copy of today's paper. Ruth B's speech got the front page and headline in the first edition.

Ruth did a very good job - very boldly and openly associating herself with the LSA. She sold all the copies of What it is that she brought out and I gave her another 20 I had.



The left has made a far bigger impression this year than 2 yrs ago - primarily due to the expulsions I would say.

Alan & Jean were barred from the NDP convention Saturday - the public sessions - imagine - and it got big press. They got the entire first day coverage of the convention much to the irritation of the would be brass - The report was very factual & sympathetic. I understand that they are going to be on CBC TV news tonight shown selling the expulsion pamphlet at the NDP convention with extensive comments from an interview. As you see they got press this time because they were admitted to the adult convention. Next day Oliver gave a press interview where he talked about "radicals" in the party attempting to use it for their purpose. Then yesterday Donald MacDonald had an interview on the expulsions in which he said it was too bad about some of them - as they could have made significant contributions to the movement. He commented at length about the Trotskyists dissolving their party to go into the CCF - then NDP. Next Herridge made a left statement to the press on the need for a socialist policy.

Jackie H hit the floor first thing on the expulsions but was ruled out of order as it was declared a provincial matter. Then came Ruth's opening on the debate on planning - followed up by Glover (Toronto) Gallagher (Ottawa) then Steeves.

Today the brass, thro Colin Cameron significantly, presented a statement of principles which in my hastily formed opinion is designed to undercut the broader support the left has been getting. The end of the debate that Ruth led off saw about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the delegates vote for socialism.



to be written in to the planning resolution. This new statement talks about democratic socialism and represents also in my hastily formed opinion an end to the brass' fiddling around with liberally minded forces. I think this statement will satisfy some of the old CCF element. More on this later

Aside from sitting thro all this - wishing I could take the mike I have been doing a bit of radio broadcasting here. While waiting for the bus to take me down to Regina I dropped into Saskatoon's 'CFQC' and gave them a 25 minute tape which I feel sure they will use. On Aug 5 I went on live on Regina's CKRM for about 8 minutes. On Aug 6 had a 10 minute interview with CKCK from which they assured me they would use 3 minutes for the 12 o'clock newscast and would probably take more + scatter them thro the day. Jean's father heard the 12 noon one.

Jackie has been selling the LP SF I gather with considerable success. Jean Al and Brian have been selling the expulsion pamphlet - I think they are about sold out. Today they put a blitz on with LP Cdn, with the help of Dick Princep. This morning they distributed the statement that was drawn up while we were in Vancouver - on the views of the expelled. Tonight at a meeting to hear the Br LP leader George Brown I distributed the Vanguard. Tomorrow I understand some BCers are distributing Jack Scott's attack on Douglas NATO position. So all in all we have been giving them a going over.

This convention is not very impressive - as of Tuesday 5 pm 724 delegates. The trade union movement is well represented



all the brass + then some - 143 from affiliated orgs  
plus 67 from Labor Councils + the youth - the latter  
will be broken down tomorrow. They maliciously  
barred the press from a pre convention C.I.C. conference  
when they ascertained that I was the only non union  
journalist there. I think it cost them something  
though as there were protests

Terrible about Jim Thompson - the convention  
paid tribute to him this morning

Hope Jerry is keeping you up to date with  
the press etc

fraternally  
Ross D



81 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
August 15, 1963

Newfoundland

Dear Berks

Sorry about the delay in taking up your correspondence.

I guess I have been outside of Canada or at least the office here in Toronto for about 6 of the last 11 months. I arrived from Italy and Algeria on June 23rd with meetings slated for me, articles for the Militant, an issue of the Vanguard to put out, prepare for our convention and then leave for Vancouver on July 17. I only got back from Vancouver and several points in between including Regina where I attended the NDP federal convention on August 11th and here it is the 15th.

So I regret to say I have only this day sent in your subscription to the Militant. You have the July issue of the Vanguard and I will be starting to work on the August issue Saturday as I am slated to speak at the forum tomorrow night.

Too bad the tour thought it too expensive to take the truck over to Newfoundland. I suppose after the very good results they got at Conerbrook they must have wished they had taken it over so that they could get over to your area and meet various people you know. They are now somewhere approaching New Glasgow after cutting their planned stay in Halifax short because of the poor political atmosphere. But at Sydney and New Waterford they did extremely well.

Glad you put some of the papers that I mailed to you to good use. When the tour didn't get to your area we mailed them more copies to another point. Hope you noticed that there are sub blanks printed in the paper--at least there usually are.

When in Regina at the NDP convention I attended a preliminary conference of CLC trade unionists. Among those who spoke was Ed Finn--on the situation confronting the unions in NFED. It was a very militant speech--full of struggle against the rotten anti-labor Smallwood government. I am trying to get a copy of the entire speech. Unfortunately I was unable to get to speak to Finn as they shortly after since there were no other representatives of the press in attendance threw all the representatives of the press (namely me) out of the meeting. Sheer malice on the part of the right wing.

But we gave them a run for their money--mostly Alan and Jean--along with our Vancouver comrades with the help of the Saskatchewan left and elements of the BC left. The leaders of the youth (NDY) were so arrogant as to bar Jean and Alan from even attending their public sessions as visitors. So of the two press reports on their convention one was devoted entirely on the expulsions with extremely good statements by both Jean and Alan. Then a couple of days later when the adult NDP allowed Jean and Alan to attend they got big publicity again with Alan getting on CBC news magazine. Of course this forced all the NDP brass to make some statements. Michael Oliver commented to the effect that it was inevitable that "radicals" should be attracted to the NDP but that they were going to do what was necessary to prevent them from utilizing the party for their ends. Donald Macdonald



usual comments about Trotskyism and then went on to express regrets that it had been necessary to expell they people who could have played a very important or could have made a very important controbution to the party. When one of our Vancouver youth--expelled from the BC youth but a delegate from an adult club of the NDP--tried to get the expulsions onto the agenda opening session of course the chair ruled it was a provincial matter. From then on the delegates were hit with a barrage of material I distributied the Vanguard--Alan Jean distributed a statement from the Ontario expelled youth---a couple of our BC people distributed one from the BC expelled youth. Alan and Jean next sold copies of the expulsion pammpelt--some 170 copies--then several persons sold 4 CDNS WHO SAW CUBA --then the Nanaimo constituency circualted a leaflet reproducing the very effective attacks by Jack Scott on Douglas' NATO position, then the BC left cirucalted their manifesto--and so it went. The right wing tried to ammend the consitution in such a way as to underwirte the Ontario and BC expulsions but the Saskatchewanwa left came in with strong support from us to decisively defeat this action. The right wing was able to keep us still in NATO but only by Douglas personally interveneing and pretending that NATO is not yet nuclear armed--which has cost him much of his prestige in the y[oung]es of many who have been worshiping him.

While out in BC and the Prairies I took advantage of the situation to approach various radio stations and much to my suprise and pleasure I was able to speak over several on Algeria. I had an hour and a half over one of the most important programs in Vancouver and Jack Webster hotshot who has a five minute program each day gave me his whole program one day "Then in Saskatoon I got a tewnety minute interview and when in Regina an 8 minute one and two three minute news spots on another station.

Our convention was a very big success. We are now getting ready to put things into gear for our fall work.

Glad to hear that you are coming up to see us before going back to school. How are you travelling. Perhaps you can hitch onto the tour They expect to be in St John NB from August 28 to September 2 --of course those dates are subject to change depending on subscription results.

Sending you a few issues you missed in separate cover.

fraternally

Ross Dowson



August 16, 1963  
Toronto

- seep2

Dear Ernie;

We have just finished parceling up a batch of old internal bulletins and a rather lengthy run of Militants for your archives--- oh yes and a batch of back issues of the FI and ISR. Among the internal bulletins you will find a file folder with one punched and placed in it as I think we should do with all the FI's ISR's and IB's---this is the only way to keep them in order and to stop people slipping out with this or that one related to a speech they have to make. The file folder costs seventy cents in this area--which is not much when you consider that twenty to thirty IBs can go into one folder depending on their thickness. This is the way we keep all our Internal Bulletins. We are keeping the ISR's like this too until there are sufficient available to send out to the binder. Do you have a punch?

Some of the Militants are going to arrive by mail in a smaller parcel as there was not room in the boxes we sent out by transport. Also in the mail will arrive a package with two wall signs---The League for Socialist Action and Win the NDP to Socialism. I have taken them off our wall--we will have John or Bill do new ones when they get back from the tour. The Win the NDP to socialism is in excellent shape--the other is somewhat soiled as we had it on the back of a car during the elections--marks on this type of material can easily be painted out with white. Probably you should give them a quick ironing from the back before hanging them as they will arrive creased. We have them hanging from a slat of wood along their length, on top--thumbtacked or stapled--then this slat with a piece of string fastened to the end and the whole thing hanging like a picture. Makes it easily transportable so that you can take it and set it up at any meeting in any hall. . You can just roll it around the stick when you move it so it doesn't get creased.

Hope you agreed with the letter on the fusion. John and Dick agree --Jerry is opposed to them getting the documents...he wants to go by stages first they have to agree on Grievances, then this and then that and so on. We are now preparing a few folios that contain the convention material--they of course will only include the documents adopted--the NDP, the Reunification(Intl) the youth, Cuba(changed) I am opposed to the whole idea of negotiations--come on in--clarification, yes---but negotiations are the quickest way to blow the whole thing up and there is no question in my mind they will be able to present a good case that in such a process we played a big role if not the decisive roll in blowing it up. My last comments about calling the whole thing off if we start to get in a wrangle I think would be a good course. Nothing wrong in saying while the convention favored fusion and commenced the whole process in good faith the situation on both sides is such as to make it unfeasible at this time and rather than jeopardize the future possibilities we are delaying for a period. This would be regrettable but if it does start into a wrangle possibly the only way.

Have to close this off as I must prepare my talk for the forum this evening--then must get after the paper. were you able to work out a press release on the LSA conference before he left---and if not what



is the feeling towards the idea--and shall we proceed.

Havent had a chance to get the Don Wilson interview off the tape yet as our own machine plays both tracks that are on the tape---we will be borrowing another machine that will properly separate them over this weekend. But I was thinking it over and perhaps from the point of view of our popularizing the Algerian cause the Jack Webster tape is a better one and besides it is shorter and snappier and in many ways more important--he has probably the largest radio audience of anyone. Could Wally or Sinclair or someone else go down and ask Webster for a transcript or for a loan of the tape.? Let me know what can be done along this line just as soon as possible.

I feel rather badly about the shortness of my stay and our inability to have some long discussions about many things. I know things are very difficult out there and you must feel that you are pretty well on your own. Perhaps this coming spring I could come out for a couple of months.

affectionately

Ross



Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held sept. 30th 1963

It was agreed that minutes be kept of the Executive Committee meetings -  
Helen Olson elected Secretary.

<u>Assignments on E.C.</u>	N.D. P. Co-ordinator	- Bannon
	Trade Union "	- Pryce
	F.P.C.C.	- Mack
	Youth Work	- Edwards
	Educational Director	- Miller
	Member at Large	- Scott

Decisions arising from discussion on the division of the Branch.

- (1) Motion that Educational be held in both sections as well as joint meeting - agreed.
- (2) It was moved and agreed that authority be vested in joint branch meeting.
- (3) Motion that the organizer be responsible for seeing that the various reports are given to the joint branch meeting - agreed
- (4) It was agreed that the organizer should have a vote in each section.

COMPOSITION of Both Sections: It was agreed that for practical reasons all active trade unionists should be assigned to Branch 2, tho' recognising that the proposal made to the branch was that there should be a predominance of trade unionists in Branch 2 in order to facilitate trade union work & develop comrades engaged in this work.

Educationals : It was agreed that Miller direct the educational work of Section 2 and the joint educational, and that Mack be assigned to ~~Section 1~~ with the proviso that the latter could be changed at any time.

Future Educationals Internal

<u>Joint</u>	Wed. <del>2nd</del> 13 <sup>th</sup>	" French Canada " ( Already agreed by Branch )
<u>Branch 1</u>	Wed. 9th	" Lenin & the Woman Question " Speaker George
<u>Joint</u>	Sun. 13th	" How to Construct a Speech " " Robinson

Future External:

Friday 4th	Films on Algeria & speech by Kent	(already agreed )
" 11th	Vietnam "	speaker Scott " "
" 18th	Social Credit	" <del>Smith</del> Robinson

Future Work It was proposed and agreed that a joint meeting be held with comrades engaged in FPCC work on Monday 7th Oct.

Sub Renewal. It was agreed that Pryce be in charge of a sub-renewal drive to start immediately.

Meeting adjourned at 11.45



November 5, 1963

Ze R. (Seablatt)

Dear Hannah; (New York)

The books have arrived. Both of them are very beautiful, but particularly the book on Rivera. It is unfortunate that they did not go to the trouble on providing new plates---the bulk of them were already used in ~~the~~ the previous volume entitled just Diego Rivera. But despite that the book itself even from my first hasty glance is a real addition to my Rivera books--a necessary one for I remain unchanged in my opinion of him as the most significant artist of our time. You know I had to have that volume.

Did you have anything to do with the designing of this book? It is really excellent--even the dust wrapper. My impression is that the competition of quality paperbacks has brought better work to the cloth bound books these days

Glad to hear that you are leading a full busy life. Don't have much trouble that way myself what with the pressure of local matters and now since my trips to Europe the demands of the international movement. We are putting out an excellent English language weekly news-service from Paris and they are constantly pressing me for contributions. But off hand they have worried me much more successfully than they have got results I am afraid.

Glad to hear that you have kept in touch with Peter and Charlotte. Peter is doing some rather interesting printing. We picked up an old hand press a while back and now we have loaned it to Peter. He has done several excellent tickets for us and I understand that he has just finished putting out a folio of Joe R's poems. You know of course that Joe has been getting published with increasing frequency. I short while back Milton Acorn wrote a poem which is full of praise of Joe as a natural poet. Milton is considered by many to be one of Canada's best younger poets. So you see we will have to make allowances for Joe as man has to make allowances for Wagner and for Rivera's and Mayakovsky's for we may have in him such a person.

I am enclosing a couple of pamphlets that we had a hand in designing and the content of which I think you will find interesting. These of course are collective efforts as are the two covers that we are running off on our own little mimeograph machine. We have gone electric and with the aid of special photographic stencils are able to move into offset standards as the Trotsky cover shows.

Looking forward to seeing you on your return to the old stamping grounds.

affectionately

Ross



November 13, 1963

Fredericton

Dear Birks;

Good to hear from you. Yes, I sent the material. I did not have your address until the other day I noticed it amongst some other mail the youth were sending out. I thought you would like to receive copies of our latest publishing efforts--largely the work of John D and Toni. Pretty sharp eh. We splurged the other day when an order for 1,000 copies of the Tripoli Program and 1,000 copies of Trotsky and the Trade Unions in the Imperialist Epoch came in. We got a newer second hand Gestetner with a stripper on it. Now we can run stuff off on newsprint which will save us a considerable amount of money --newsprint is about 1.20 a thousand and mimeograph paper is about 3.80. Those two color jobs are really nice --well worth the time.

Everyone here is very busy as I see you have with the Scott pamphlet. Why we even have some others working for us. Bob H spoke to Cole's the other day and they took 1,200 copies of Jack Scott's Second Look, 200 hundred for each of their six stores, on speculation. It is going great guns out in Vancouver.

The Cox tour is now over. Too bad we couldn't book him into your area. He had a very successful meeting in York University thanks to John G and Bill L and a good one in Montreal under NDY auspices--Dick did most of the work but John D went down to give him a hand. The rest of the Canada tour was not so successful but I think that the wind-up banquet in Vancouver must have gone over big. Now fiat play in Toronto has a membership drive, a contact drive underway and plans to commence holding at least once a month meetings on different aspects of the Cuban and Latin American struggle. The membership meeting this month will be addressed by John R who gave us all the fine material on Cuba appearing in last issue of Vanguard. Big news in Cuba these days again eh. Yesterday the press reported that Castro moved in against an old CP leader now tops in Havana University and the head of the CP youth. Still early yet but it looks like Castro is embroiled in a struggle with Khrushchevists over matters of defence of the Cuban revolution. You are aware no doubt that Castro refused to sign the test ban treaty, exposing the hypocrisy of the US which has signed it but keeps the Oxford three miles off shore of Havana. He has also refused the ~~knuckle~~ knuckle under any agreement to a nuclear free Latin American zone--meaning no nuclear arms for Cuba while the US has all kinds of them poised for action against Cuba. Khrushchev is pulling Soviet troops out of Cuba on a big scale and is no doubt pressing Castro to agree to the above in line with his policy of peaceful co-existence. This struggle is going to have much bigger repercussions than the Escalante affair as it involves the bog issues being disputed in the Sino-Soviet debate. Even should Castor in the interest of not jeopardizing aid he is getting fell it necessary to keep quiet China and others wont.

Hope you like the 4th Intl and Sino Soviet dispute pamphlet. I am enclosing a couple of other items to keep you posted. The one leaflet on trusteeship as you have noticed is the material out of the paper. We have circulated over 9,000 so far. It has got a good response. It brought an old friend in Massey Harris down to tell us of the good reception there and another old friend presently a union organizer from the needle trade area to tell us of the response too. We took it into Hamilton on Monday hitting the big shops. The other on the Socialist Club at the U of T I am sending along because I am sure the statement of policy on the back will interest you.

Art was in from Waterloo the other day. He is going to reply to a World University Service project that will take Canadian students who qualify to Algeria this



next summer. I suppose someone has written you about this project. Art figures that what with the funds they supply he will only have to dig up about 250 bucks in what will be left of the summer in order to make the coming years tuition. Bill L is going to apply also. If you havent heard about this project be sure to let me know at once. We are all now looking forward to seeing the first issue of the new youth paper the comrades will be putting out

I am also enclosing a sample copy of a new press service that is coming out of Paris on a weekly basis. I do not know how much time you have and how much in depth you want to follow international developments. Some of the material in the World Outlook will be appearing in the Militant which I take if you subscribe to. Less will appear in the Vanguard due to space shortage. If you would like to subscribe it costs \$8.25 for 26 issues in Canadian funds

Things are very quiet in the NDP up here but this month will see the BC convention and what the left wing out there can do in an ~~anarchist~~ atmosphere that is favorable to their getting a serious hearing. The NDP youth convention (Ont.) is taking place in Galt in a couple of weeks and it looks like despite the expulsions and the failure of the movement to really grow that the left will be quite strong.

Yes things are quite busy up here. Had a really terrific social, all kinds of young people last Saturday, so everyone could relax for a change. How do you find Fredericton? Have you got lots to read aside from the school texts., You know we have an excellent library here you can borrow from. And what is doing on the campus, with Carol Hermitage, the NDY, CCUNB etc.

Certainly looking forward to your coming up for Christmas. Possibly Bob will be living in Montreal by then and you can drop in on him. Dick is doing a terrific job there but by the time you are off and coming through he will be off and grabbing a couple of runs on the railway to refill his treasury.

warmest regards

Ross



November 13, 1963

Pat Mitchell  
5273 Tobin Street Apt 5  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Pat

What are you doing--~~waiting~~ for the word ?

But what's the word--three letter? four letter ? Its root--Greek? Latin? French?

Come off it. Snap to it. Attention. The word, t h e w o r d !

Why it's VANGUARD

was and

and so it shall be--in the beginning--and in the end

Vanguard VANGUARD V A N G U A R D

Supposed to be working on it write now--ye got it--yak yak-right now. But then I got a letter from Dick . After reading that I felt I could only end my reply with the salutation ~~humblyyours~~. All my shortcomings welled up before me --the half hour I sneaked out to read a few more lines of The Invisible Man--but really it was on the Negro struggle and even if we dont have any Negroes up here it is a continental ,even world question. The beer I had during the last meeting--but really it was left over from the social and we had to get our money out of it didn't we--and we cant have it hanging around here

It looks like we are surviving- without you. Fair Play executive met and made arrangements for the annual meeting with John R speaking . And did you know that Bob H investigations at Cole's have resulted in their taking 1,200 copies of Jack Scott--200 each for their 6 ~~stages~~--on speculation. The bulletin will be getting underway. The LSA social was a big big success. We even made over \$50--first time in a longtime. John D emceed it and he did very well indeed. All young people. ~~Thomas~~ Bob H, Hans and John D went off to Hamilton to distribute the paper and sell the pamphlet at Bucks RR celebration night. Enclosed are some clippings which you must return first letter. The distribution of the leaflet we made from the Vanguard articles is well underway--must have handed out 9,000 by now. It brought Nick O down to tell us that it got a very good reception at Massey Harris and Harry Clairmont down along with two other staff people to chew the rag and pick up copies of the Fourth International and the Sino-Soviet dispute pamphlet. Today will see the first meeting of the U of T Socialist club--enclosed is a copy of the leaflet that I managed to rescue from the garbage pail.

But dont worry about your position here with us. I understand that your dues are paid in advance, that you have a withdrawal card and a very high seniority rating. A short note from time to time will keep you in good standing.

you will be pleased to note that now that we have a stripper on the machine we can use newsprint, ~~minimum~~ 1/3rd the cost of mimeo paper.

Ross



81 Queen Street West  
Toronto  
November 30, 1963

To the Editor  
Toronto Daily Star

Sir;

Trotsky never broke with Lenin over Communist doctrine, as your staff writer Ross Harkness states in your November 30 issue. Trotsky had disagreements with Lenin prior to October 1917 but from then until Lenin's death they saw eye to eye on all the major issues. It was Stalin who broke with the Leninist doctrine which Trotsky tirelessly upheld and applied to new developments.

The Trotskyists are associated with other socialists in the League for Socialist Action. Both the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Educational League which you mention are no longer in existence. Friends and supporters of the LSA have not and do not infiltrate "labor and moderate left wing groups." Being an integral part of the Canadian working class movement they are participants in all the varied organizations of the Canadian working people.

I fail to see anything "secretive" about a political tendency which publishes a paper and holds weekly public forums, etc. *Who does more?*

sincerely

Ross Dowson  
81 Queen Street West



December 5, 1963  
Toronto

Vancouver

Dear Ruth B

I received the seven dollars for the copy of the Deutcher book the other day. Thanks. Haven't got into this book very far yet. But so far it doesn't impress me as much as the second volume. Have you read the second? I must get on with it as we are planning a sort of book fair-cultural afternoon where I am slated to speak on it.

Glad that you wrote at length on the matter that you raised in the card....my handling of the BC NDP convention item.

For sometime now we have had a policy of not carrying unsigned ~~articles~~ editorials. If they are small items ~~or~~ straight news items it does not matter that they are unsigned. But we have very few such articles---news articles. Even where we report the news as in the case of the PSQ and the NDP BC items, they are not just highly selective from a news point of view but they are heavily slanted--heavily edited. I think such articles as the PSQ and BC NDP items should be signed. Not so much ~~to~~ relieve the paper of editorial responsibility for them. I just don't see any advantage of our taking editorial responsibility--it is good for the paper to take on some of the character of a newspaper even if it is not. If the article comes from a comrade and I have some doubts as to its editorial line I would hammer this out within the framework of the party. If the article comes from a person not in the party I would handle it by making some editorial comments--depending on the value and the seriousness of the disagreement. That is one aspect of the question as I see it. These are not news items, they are not the product of the editors pen, they are the work of correspondents. Our Montreal correspondent is a good device it seems to me if for some reason we do not wish to use a name. Dick F's name cannot appear in our paper as his appeal is still in the hopper. I used his pseudonym on the one article on the CCND. I knew people at the convention were aware that he wrote the PSQ article--they are looking forward to seeing it so I thought of this device which he is highly satisfied with.

The paper has also been operating along a policy ~~or~~ line of ~~trying~~ trying to overcome an appearance of anonymity that the League unfortunately has and which has been carrying over into the paper. I do not think that pseudonyms are good, possibly in some situations they are worse than no name---I see that this is your opinion in this case, and if I had thought it out a little further than the general policy line of anonymous articles--I think that I would have put from our Vancouver correspondent which I see you would also have been opposed to.

Yes, I knew that you wrote the article. I wanted to put your name on it. But you did not put your name on it and gave no reason. I of course did not think it a matter of life and death, ~~and~~ certainly



~~xxx~~ have no desire to make you look like an idiot. I agree that the Socialist Caucus work is important to our LSA work. And I can see that this pseudonym may cause you a little embarrassment--which of course as a comrade is also my embarrassment. The thing that puzzles me is why you do not put your name on such an article. You are publicly identified with the LSA and the Socialist Caucus and the NDP. An article under your name on such a matter as the role of the caucus at the NDP conference has much more weight than if it appeared with no name, with a pseudonym or with the line from our Vancouver correspondent. I raise this not to turn the question but it seems to me to be a completely logical one and which has puzzled me for sometime.

My feeling is that comrades should either affix their name to the articles they submit, if not their name a pseudonym, or suggest some other course for I am prone to guide myself by the following policy

a minimum of no-name articles in the paper  
a name or pseudonym on articles of length and articles of an analytical character, particularly those that are apparently not the work of the editor, ~~such as~~ the round-up on "Algeria in the above issue" *was obviously the editors.*

Until you mentioned it I was not aware of the use by Dick of the term planification. I do not know whether he has picked it up from me or not. Is this term used by the Technocrats? I could have sworn I have seen it in the international documents. Unfortunately I have found that there are many such words in my vocabulary. Up until the last couple of issues we were able to screen them out with the aid of Pat Mitchell handling the proof reading. Then she went off the Halifax. But now she has returned. With her help I hope we can cut out this non-dictionary ~~xxxxxx~~ wordage.

The hyphenating of words is another matter. Really to meet good standards of typography we should pull out of that shop. The only reason why we have not done so is that their price is almost half the price charged in other label shops and we can put up with a great deal on that basis. The lino-type is poor--we get transpositions continually--you will find them in the Canadian Forum which is set there--I have had them in corrections of corrections of corrections. And the lino-typist is also very poor. He gets so upset that I feel embarrassed about finding errors third time around. Perhaps this will all be remedied shortly as the owner is talking about dumping the label which means we will have to go cheap price or not.

I will bring your ~~xxxxxx~~ letter, particularly the portion with regards to policy on the use of names, to the attention of the PC and let you know their thinking on this matter, as it is of some importance.

fraternally

Ross

I hope that Ernie posted the reproduction of the Tribune edit from the Toronto Star for everyone to see



81 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ont.

~~RECEIVED~~  
APR 1963

Mauno Nikkanen

Vancouver

1003 Wolfe Ave, Suite 6 (Vancouver BC)

Dear Comrade Mauno;

I meant to thank you long ago for the clippings that you have been sending in. They give us here a broader picture of what is going on in the West. The local capitalist dailies are very weak on BC developments unless they involve murders, bank robberies and so forth.

I have already put some of the material to good use. For instance Ken Orchard sent us an article for the last issue on the Lebourdais meeting on Cuba at the university. While Ken had all the essential material he failed to put in editorial color--but the Sun reporter did and some of it I utilized to make Ken's original article more effective.

Do you follow the New Democratic Press out there? I suppose you are a member and have a subscription. Whenever you think that there is anything important in it I would appreciate your sending it along. We have a subscription to the Pacific Tribune and I will be reminding the Press group that they have not been sending our exchange copy. We also get the Western Pulp and Paper Workers.

I would think that once a week service would be adequate for our purposes. since as yet we are only publishing on a monthly basis.

I do not know how much time you have at your disposal and whether or not I am suggesting you infringe on someone else's area of activity but it would be very good now that I understand that the headquarters has been improved considerably and that a room has been constructed if someone were to take it upon himself to set up a modest library and file. This would be handy for comrades who have to prepare educational write articles or who wish to study. We could start off on a modest basis with a Militant, Newsletter, ISR, Labor Review, Vanguard, ND, Pacific Tribune, Pulp workers file. Probably you would get many donations of books and pamphlets from comrades who have retained hold of certain items with the view of using them for circulation. They could circulate out of Hastings Street. Just an idea.

fraternally

Ross Dowson



44 1962-64 NR  
Jan 17/63

to Mauno

-2-

first page carbon turned

the x's mark us. The cartoon should help our cause at the courts this Friday. That is when the case of the 21 comes up. Did the local papers report our victory for free speech in the parks here. Last week the parks department agreed to remove the present restrictions that hem in political speeches into three of the worst parks in Toronto--it has to go before council but I think it will win. Joe R was the man who did that job. This Friday will see Andrew Brewin and possibly David Lewis enters the courts on behalf of the 21 half of whom are us. Brewin raised the question and was relieved to hear that I would conduct my own defence

In a few days we will be sending you a raft of material on the discussion about expulsion struggle strategy in Vancouver. I hope you got the ~~first~~ bulletin initiating the discussion on the unification of the world movement. You had better read it now as there are a bunch more heading your way in the next week.

Anticipating an early reply to this note

fraternally

Ross



January 15, 1963

Gabe Glazer  
Montreal

Dear Gabe;

Thanks for your note of the 11th.

Dont know why we did not receive number two--it seems that the bundle did not come in as others have asked for this issue.

And sorry I was unable to meet with your request in the December issue of Vanguard. Your letter came too late and we did not have room. Yes, in some future issue we will attempt to make a broader appreciation of the efforts of Commentary.

You will be interested to know that the Woodsworth-Irvine Fellowship has just voted 100% to affiliate to the NDP. Our tourists told us last summer that when they proposed this to some of the leading elements that a real rucus broke out. Now only four months later they have taken this very important step forward. Probably nothing should be said of this development until the affiliation goes through. Some of the key persons in carrying this out are on the faculty of the University of Alberta where they have also formed a Faculty NDP club. Did Judy Suzuki pass along the issue of the west coast Pulp and Sulphite Workers paper concerning the protest against the expulsions of the 11 BC youth? I understand that the Alberta Faculty club also passed a strong motion of protest--I am hoping to get a copy of the resolution for publication. The real character of the leadership's moves will have been brought home to many with Robert Strachan's arrogant attack on Cedric Cox.

Have you heard of an Alf Stein or a Louis Grynspan here in Toronto. I understand that they are seriously contemplating putting out a journal which I would think in many ways would parallel Commentary. Grynspan is on the staff of Ryerson Technical Institute here and was instrumental in inviting me to address a class of about 60 on The Validity of Marxism Today. Unfortunately I did not have time to get into a discussion about the above matters. But I understand that the Ontario leadership offered to turn over some space in the Ontario New Democrat to them but in fear of restrictions they did not accept. One might say the more magazines like Commentary the better. But as you point out in your letter there is the little matter of circulation and finance which has spelled the death of more than one little magazine. Perhaps you might make contact with these people. Alf Stein's address is 47 Baby Point Crescent, Toronto. If he is not on your mailing list you might send him a copy with a request for his opinion. It might open the way to a useful collaboration.



It was a real pleasure to meet Judy over the holiday weekend.... good to hear what is happening in the Quebec NDP. Nobody this side on Montreal knows what is happening in Quebec NDP circles. I would very much appreciate hearing, reading a frank and detailed discussion in the pages of Commentary.

I am hoping possibly sometime in March to be able to get down to Montreal. Would it be possibly to arrange something for me that would make the trip most useful. Do you have connenctions with the McGill campus group. I see they invited Gus Hall who was stopped at the border.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

We received some material on New Outlook--I see you are co-chairman of the Canadian Freidns. I see ~~individual~~ subscription rates but not bundle rates. If ~~would~~ you would like we would be prepared to handle a bundle of say five copies as a starter of each issue in the Vanguard bookstore



81 Queen St. West,  
Toronto 1, Ontario.  
March 11, 1963.

Dear Alex:

Received your letter of January 8th — sorry I was unable to reply sooner due to the pressure of our work here. The criticisms you raise are important ones, but I must confess that the general line of your criticism of Cliff Orchard's article on the conduct of the federal NDP caucus during the Cuba crisis somewhat puzzles me.

I think that if you read the article again you will see that our quarrel with the NDP leadership is not one of "words" or "parliamentary jargon" but of the political position taken by the caucus on the blockade. Here we have the world on the edge of nuclear catastrophe in a crisis precipitated by American imperialism in a mad drive to smash the Cuban revolution and set back the forces of socialism internationally. And what indeed is the position of the NDP caucus? In such an ominous context, what leadership do they provide to the Canadian workers whom they seek to represent? Do they condemn the aggressor? Only in that the U.S. government acted "unilaterally". They not only fail to condemn the blockade as such but go much further and essentially give support to the Kennedy line all the way — that the Cuban revolution precipitated the crisis by arming itself against the clear and unambiguous threat of invasion from the U.S. That, by implication, the self-defense of Cuba is a provocation. Despite good intentions, where does that leave the NDP caucus but right in the arms of the State Department? The blockade is not only a blatant violation of all the interests and aspirations of the Canadian or any other working class but a threat to their very existence since it threatened thermonuclear war. In our opinion, it is the clear duty of a responsible workers' leadership to oppose the blockade in every way possible — the MP's should have rallied the labor movement, called and participated in mass demonstrations or any other effective protest that could have been made.

The statement initially made by Douglas went far further in the right direction than the policy of the caucus. Douglas raised the question of national sovereignty, of the violation of normal relations between independent states, of "undeclared" war, of the U.S. bases ringing the U.S.S.R. — exposing the cynical hypocrisy and arrogance of the Kennedy position.

We also hold the position that the missiles in Cuba could not in any way be considered a serious military threat to the United States mainland. That under no pretext must the U.S. be conceded the right to arrogate to itself the prerogative of deciding what arms socialist Cuba must be permitted or not permitted to have. Castro himself essentially expressed our position when he declared that the road to peace is not one of appeasement of aggression. And as far as the military aspect of the question goes, it is undeniable that the U.S., with its vast nuclear weaponry, could wipe out small Cuba within minutes of any hypothetical attack from that source.

CONTINUED



Further, the Cubans, as is well known, could not make any move of military significance without immediately alerting U.S. forces. Further, the missiles in Cuba are hardly any great gain for the U.S.S.R. in any case. It is also established that Soviet missiles can be launched in half the time that it takes to get U.S. missiles off the ground due to a superior fueling system. The NDP caucus can hardly claim to be ignorant of all this. Yet, when there was everything — EVERYTHING — at stake, except for a very mild tap on the wrist for the State Department — they SHUT UP. We cannot consider that to be aiding the cause of peace. No, we're not opposed to mediation, negotiation, in principle — who is? But not on premises that allow the aggressor to go forward, that embolden the imperialists by needless concessions, that declare the bandit and the victim equally guilty. That is akin to the racist police of the southern U.S. who arrest a Negro assaulted by whites and charge him with inciting to riot. I don't know whether you agree with our analysis but surely you will now agree, that whatever other criticisms you have, we weren't quibbling over words.

It is a serious charge to say that the Workers' Vanguard indulges in criticism of the NDP leadership for its own sake — and it would be criminally irresponsible of us if it were so. But I honestly don't see that you have given us any evidence of this — and you must agree with me that the Orchard article in any case is not in this category. If, after further consideration, you still held to that position, I would appreciate it if you would write me and point out where you think this is true.

Meanwhile, I hope I have answered the question raised in the letter to your satisfaction. If not, why not drop me a line when you get a chance? I had hoped to get down to Montreal earlier in the year but again the pressure of work made this impossible. Nevertheless it may be possible in the near future and if so I look forward to seeing you again and having some fruitful discussions.

Fraternally yours,



September 6, 1963

Serge Huard  
950-12Ave  
Grand-Mere  
Quebec

Dear Comrade;

Pardonez-mois que je n'ecrit pas en français, J'espere que vous pouvez a lire anglais.

I received your letter of August 23 and this morning I have received a note from my good friend Pierre Frank with regards to your correspondence with him. I have been compelled to delay answering your letter earlier for several reasons. The League has just had its convention in Vancouver, on the way back I took time out to attend the NDP convention in Regina and then there has been a big pile up here what with the successes scored by our comrades who have spent the last 4 months going through the Maritimes.

I understand that we have already sent you a copy of a small pamphlet called What the LSA is and What it Wants along with several issues of our paper the Vanguard. The Vanguard is published by the League for Socialist Action. I hope that a perusal of the small pamphlet and several issues of the paper will give you a fair idea of our view point.

The Trotskyists (I have been one ~~for~~ since 1936) do not exist in Canada as an independent party. It would be most desirable if the New Democratic Party existed as a federated party which would allow other formations of the left to be independent but affiliated to it. But unfortunately this is not so. The constitution of the NDP bars membership in any other party--and it has been with considerable difficulty that attempts of the right to bar persons considered to be members of ancillary organizations has been blocked. We socialists organized in the LSA have decided not to let the reformist right wing leadership of the NDP and the trade union movement use a constitutional device to keep us out of contact with the more advanced layers of the Canadian working class. We think all workers and above all all revolutionary socialists, all Marxists, all Trotskyists should be in the mass movement, must not allow themselves to be isolated from it--on the political area that means inside the NDP--and in Quebec the Parti Socialiste du Quebec

The League is attempting to mobilize the Canadian workers, particularly those in or those supporters of the NDP around a fighting program--it is attempting to build a socialist caucus in the NDP to win it to a socialist perspective and a class struggle program.

As you probably know the NDP is affiliated to the remnants of the discredited Second International. Just as we cannot be a party and serve our aim effectively so we cannot be affiliated to the Fourth International, which in my opinion is the only world wide center for the socialist revolution. But we are enthusiastic supporters of the



Fourth International. I had the honor and the pleasure of attending the sessions of a conference held in Italy this summer that realized the unification of all the major forces of world Trotskyism. A whole series of documents on the major issues of our times were adopted by this congress. We have run out of the special issue of Quatrieme International that contains these documents but we are expecting more copies any day now and I will send you one for your examination.

I see from the letter that you address to Pierre Frank that you would like to know our attitude amongs other matters to the Parti-Communist Canadien. Among the documents adopted by the World Congress is one on the Sino-Soviet dispute and the crisis of World Stalinism. The Canadian party under the leadership of Buck and Morris is Khrushchovist--that is Stalinist in the content of the new circumstances that confront the Soviet bureaucracy. Almost as a reflex action it rejected the Chinese positions which are much closer to the positions of orthodox Marxism-Leninism which we Trotskyists have all along upheld. While the Canadian CP no doubt has members who are serious and dedicated revolutionaries this party has functioned as a servile foreign agency of the Soviet bureaucracy in the ranks of the Canadian labor movement--in 1928 it automatically expelled its chief theoretician Maurice Spector as Stalin launched his extermination drive against the last of the Bolshheviks headed up by Trotsky--a few years later it kicked out its pioneer national secretary Jack MacDonald. You will recall that Buck and company immediately upon release from prison toured the highways and biways of Quebec urging that the Quebecois vote yes for conscription. The last federal election the CP quite openly and shamelessly ~~xxx~~ urged Canadian to vote Tory and then NDP where it had a chance to get elected. With the fallure of the world Communist Parties, the Third International, to correctly evaluate their role in the German events that led to the victory of Hitler we revolutionary socialists ceased to project the perspective of reforming the Communist Parties and started the task anew to build the Marxist Leninist party. And that is what we are now going about. I might say that the situation is better than ever before for building this party in Canada.

You ask for samples of journals published by the world Trotskyist movement. This is rather a big order for there are a considerable number of Trotskyist parties and groups all over the world and of course nearly all of them publish material in their own language--Sinhalese, Japanese, Afrikaner, etc. I am sending you a few tiems under separate cover that will probably serve your purpose.

Our program in a word--our aim--is the socialist revolution in Canada, workers rule.

Do you manage to get into Montreal at all. If you do I could put you in touch with some comrades of mine who would be pleased to meet with you and see if we can work out a collaboration

avec salutations revolutionnaire

Ross Dowson



*Handwritten letter dated Sept. 23, 1963*

Dear Dick (F., Montreal)

Are you in fit condition yet -- settled down enough to have contacted Vern? I am sending you a copy of the leaflet that we have run off for Hamilton. Morgan is in elections so, while he is chairing it, doesn't want to be on the leaflet. We wanted a known name on the leaflet. They suggested Art Lavery who is known (as) much as Paul Siren is. We let this proposition drop as we must protect Cox as much as we can. Hammond while not well known -- is known as an NDPer.

Vern tells me that Glazer agreed to hold a meeting but the Cox must speak on "A foreign policy for Canada." Vern passed this on to Cox. But I suggested that this is a mistake and we should say that this is too much, that Cox has a tough schedule and we don't want to make it tougher by adjusting to different speech requests. Besides I do not know if he can handle such a matter before those sharpies and why should we get them off the Cuba question.

Pamphlet sales were terrific at the mass NDP rally -- 212 copies -- every 10<sup>th</sup> person. The results surprised us all because of the extreme hostility of the brass. But it seems that we have underestimated the interest and sympathy in Cuba. These were mostly hard core workers in the campaigns brought in by bus.

I suggested to Vern -- in line with my talk with you and the availability of John D. that we are not dependent on Glazer for a worthwhile meeting in Montreal now.

Warmest regards, Ross D.



September 30, 1963

Montreal

Dear Dick

(Fidler)

I received your letter just half an hour ago and have been able to contact Vern and have a short discussion on what is happening there. I gather from the comments that you make (point 3) that at the time of writing to me you did not have Vern's letter at hand re the campus situation, and related matters

With regards to Wednesday night however; Whatever their reasons for not wanting Cox to speak on Cuba--Glazer appears to have told Vern that the grupo was not interested in Cuba--Vern thinks that it is not a statesman-enough theme, too small a matter from their point of view, he had heard nothing about their fears of the NDP brass moving in on them--whatever their reason it is really not possible to comply to it. Aside from whether we think Cox is competent to do so and I very much doubt it and certainly from their petty bourgeois point of view, he is just physically and mentally unable to do so. The tour schedule is much too tough for this type of arrangement. Other wise I would be in favor of complying to their wish no matter what I thought of it. I think at the meeting that you should speak up in support speak up urging them to go through with the meeting on the Cuba theme terms explaining to them the intense character of the tour--that Cox after all has just come through a tough election struggle, etc. I find it hard to believe that even if lack of interest in such a "small" theme as the Cuban revolution is valid for most of their associates that they could not hold quite a successful meeting. You suggest that ~~xxxxxxx~~ with the broader theme of a foreign policy for Canada they could rally 125 persons. I would think that given the smaller theme that they could still hold a very successful meeting I think that you should tolerantly explain the problems of the tour, not of course suggesting in anyway that Cox is unable to handle the theme and urge them to go ahead. If these is obviously out then I think you should suggest that some other formula be worked out so that a successful meeting for Cox could be held in Montreal.

Perhaps they would be agreeable, though not officially sponsoring the meeting, to turning over their mailing list. I do not think sponsorship is of vital importance--valuable but not vital. You could chair the meeting. The meeting could be held under some ad hoc name. Probably they have already booked a hall. We would be agreeable to taking it over if they all think that the location is good. Perhaps ~~xxxx~~ Bless or is it Blest, would chair--one of them. Perhaps they would all agree with the idea of going ahead with the meeting--doing whatever they were going to do but just clear the NL name from it. This would be a satisfactory compromise from our point of view it seems to me.

Whatever happens on Wednesday night



Yes, whatever happens Wednesday night why not drop into , or you can phone of course, the telegraph company and send us a night letter so we can immediately know your propositions discuss them and act on them.

Sorry to hear about your immediate shortage of cash. The Vanguard Friendly loan company is here at your rescue. I would expect that the enclosed ten will see you through for a short while.

Hope that you have been able to do something on the various campus fronts. I gather that Vern had written Blest on this. However as you know while we anticipate always that others will move into a situation, such a kosher one as this, we will in all probability have to do the job. We are having to take over in Hamilton. Have just seen John off to arrange a hall. Morgan and Bagley with their unprincipled relationships have got caught up with some CP types and they have put the pox to our plans so we are going ahead. While all the leftists were friendly and sympathetic to the idea of a Kitchener meeting so too with the Unitarians, Bob and Art have had to go ahead, get a hall. We have got the leaflets out and Art came in this weekend to pick up the lists, envelopes etc. He is confident that it will be a success and the sensation of the town. Hasn't decided about newspaper ads. With all those campuses in Montreal, I see you mention the "extremely radical and militant AGEUM at the U of Montreal, we should get at least one break.

So there is the New Left, the University area and possibly the PSQ. I suggested that John go down if we are to a considerable degree relied upon to go on our own. After all you have your studies, lectures to attend to, the time will be short and I figure you may well need some help. John is a good typist, he could prepare stencils, do mimeographing, do mailing from lists, put ads in papers. And the cost would be very little to have him go down for a week since you could put him up there it seems to me with little trouble. We would finance his meals and his bus fare. If the New Left group is prepared to go ahead even under some other formula we would have to go along with what publicity they would give it, pitch into all their efforts to publicize the meeting and add to it anything we can but we would have to go along. We only have the one night for Cox, Wednesday. I suppose if there would be an opportunity for another effective meeting without stepping on the toes of the first, under pressure Tuesday could be arranged but it is not the plan and not probable. You know John--his weak points and his strong points. If some ~~formula~~ formula is worked out with ~~the~~ New Left I would leave it up to you to decide whether it is worthwhile John going there, whether there is sufficient for him to do and whether his aid is necessary and it would be accepted. If however the New Left proposition falls through and there is nothing with the PSQ I think ~~we~~ we should go ahead with whatever type of non-campus meeting we can on our own and for this it would seem to me that John could play a big role in assuring success or at least a modest success for the meeting. Why you will need someone to take the collection at Snyderate.

Read all the other information with considerable interest. The conference was highly successful. Jerry was defeated as organizer and if anyone had doubts over the question as to his suitability he cleared the air by withdrawing his name from the executive slate. Since all the other more able comrades had declined by the time his name came up and he withdrew I asked that nominations be re-opened and if he cared would Jerry make a statement. He did and it was a scandalous one--~~Cliff~~ Cliff had just been elected and he made extremely sharp attacks on Cliff following this with a declaration that he refused to sit on the executive with him. He was nominated for other posts to the indignation of Raymond and others close by me who thought he should be censured for his actions and statement, but he declined them all. So as I said



on the key question of personal ~~relations~~ relations, no matter all his other very excellent qualifications he proved right then and there that he cannot be an organizer. Too bad but if he had been elected by some fluke--and he put on quite a campaign I could see the proof coming to us under very much worse circumstances.

Will write at length by about Wednesday

warmest regards

Ross

scott

Did you know that we sold 212 copies of the ~~manifesto~~ pamphlet at the NDP rally---every tenth person. It seems to be selling well. The Internationalist is coming in again from Paris. Costs about \$7.50 a year (a weekly I would imagine you cannot afford it so I am thinking that we will take out a sub for you on condition that you read it at once and send it on to Vancouver.



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Things look very good from here. Only real question mark I think is Hamilton. The reception came off well last night although it cut into our movie night. None of the CPers came out---about four or five were on the invitation list--but it came off well anyway--Peter L didn't even notice this. We don't know what this means as yet. The Ambassador came to the reception and has invited Vern out for lunch this afternoon. My impression is that there is a bit of a danger that the banquet tickets have been oversold--that we may get into difficulty if too many are sold at the door. Everyone is pitching in. We got a letter from Bob and things look alright in Kitchener. He writes--"The meeting should ~~go~~ come off well--we're hoping for at least 20--the hall would hold 50 tightly. ...we've had a rutpore of sorts with the NDP and the ??? and moved out by-passing them--lines are going to be drawn pretty tightly and it may bust this town right open." After the Kitchener meeting Cox will be back in Toronto to address two campus meetings. Toronto--then our new York forces have moved out and arrange one too.

I see you are short of money after paying the hall and missing the bank. I take it since Dick does have some money in the bank that there is no difficulty here and that we will float a loan which will be paid back

Yes, it was probably wrong on my part to think of John returning Sunday. I can see to ensure the success of the meeting that he can be very useful. If we get a break it would seem to me to still not be too late to organize something at Sir George William. The York affair was handled in about 1 1/2 a day. but it needs some freedom of maneuver. But for that John would have to stay on. You fellows work it out. What with press releases, TV interviews etc it can be a busy time.

Will write later re Algeria committee etc.

warmest regards

John did you fill Dick in on the conference here?



Bill  
Rich

Elk 1962-64. NR  
Dec 11 / 63

Carlson  
turned



Art (y.) H. Waterloo

it on to him.

In some ways the Hamilton meeting was the most successful of them all, including Montreal. There were 15 Hamiltonians. We seeded the meeting with 10 of us. That is a big success in my opinion for not only did we get no help at all from the very persons who we would normally count on to carry the ball but we could only expect them to absent themselves and even speak out against the meeting. After all we held it in defiance of them, against them. They could not put their faces inside the door and would be hard put should anyone ask them about the meeting to speak favorably of it. All we were able to do for that meeting was to send an notice out to our contacts and subscribers, send four comrades out to do a spot distribution at three or four of the major plants. We should have put an ad in the Spectator but we have no money and it seems to me that any ad less than four or five column inches is hardly to be seen and they run expensive. Haven't really got a run down on this meeting, what names and addresses we got out of it. John was talking to an NDPer. One fellow got up and apologized to Cox for the poor meeting. I am hoping that when I talk to Vern about it and those of us who were there that we established connections so that we are now in a position to talk of doing something in Hamilton independent of Morgan and Bagley.

The Kitchener meeting came off very well. You will recall they hoped for 20. They got thirty ~~and~~ a few more. According to Anne Bob did an excellent job of chairing the meeting. I wrote them a long letter as soon as I heard about the success. They haven't written anything in so I would think that one or other of them will be coming in for this weekend. Probably Art. He seems quite unconcerned about his school work, seems confident that he can handle it. Bob finds his course somewhat stiff. Art was in over the conference weekend. Quite disappointed when I protested his voting and the chair upheld me.

The York meeting came off well. There were over thirty in attendance at what I understand is the first political meeting yet held in that hall of learning. Bill L chaired it. Questions were good and Cox did well, lots of interest in it but no literature was sold. The U of T meeting was slightly smaller. John R chaired it and it seems that he only knew two persons in attendance aside from us, which is good. The publicity that came out of the meeting made it more than worthwhile. Varsity did not list the meeting in the days events and it turned out that the NDP held a meeting at the same time. I do not know whether it was to atone for their oversight but any way the following days Varsity gave Cox a front page spread. A two column photo of him and an article about four inches deep right across the page. The article was very good. The Globe also reported the meeting.

Riddell

The banquet of course was a big success. I am sure that Cox had a correct appreciation of it. The best that FPCC has yet done. Lots of youth which makes it impressive. The Cuban ambassador did not content himself with platitudes but used his time to explain why Cuba could not and will not sign the test ban. Middleton really outdid himself--he made the collection speech which he stretched into a real speech and it was good. Cox was adequate. The atmosphere was very very good. Despite all the worry words the banquet tickets were actually oversold by about 30 or 40 persons.

Yes Cox was adequate but not really good. I wrote Ernie about it because in some ways we, particularly Phil are responsible, Anne tells me that the man despite all the speaking he has done on Cuba in BC had not at the time of his arriving in Toronto read any of the basic Cuban material--Escalante, Eschevarria, Congress of Women, Agrarian Reform, etc. Apparently under Anne's pressure he has been reading it now. An excellent revolutionary type but quite inexperienced. He has a great knack for relating Cuba to Canada and got a big hand for it. But he doesn't use the George Washington experience of no elections as a debating point against those who would make elections the criteria. On the contrary he carries it in his speech and sustains the idea that there can be no elections in Cuba, elections of any type which North Americans would identify with.







But here are a few comments for your consideration;

I am wondering if it is a good idea to call it L'Association d'Amitie et d'Aide Quebec-Algerie. Why not call it Canada-Algerie. If it remains Quebec it means that work done elsewhere in the country would only be ancillary to that in Quebec not only in fact but in name. Is this a concession to separatists, one made out of necessity to persons we are already working with or one made with a certain purpose in mind? I think the committee should operate on the basis that there are persons other than Quebecers who would want to work in this area--and all the more that they are not numerous enough to think in terms of their own committee separate and apart from a Quebec one would it be advisable to call it Aide ~~Quebec~~-Canada-Algerie. Possibly there are problems that I do not understand

Yes, it is a good idea--this project of getting technical books no longer being used by the students. When I was first thinking in these terms I had some idea that the costs of shipping them could be met by sending them via Yugoslav boats. I have the impression that a lot of Yugoslav shipping goes into Algiers--and that there is a bit coming into the port of Montreal. It would seem to me that this would have to be arranged by the Algerian end of the committee but there is nothing like suggesting ideas and possibilities. This type of action is just what we need it seems to me to get the work of the committee underway--a positive action that cannot help but win support of anyone regardless of their appreciation of the nature of the Algerian revolution. But of course we need a public send off for the committee.

I see the Pontaut's known the Algerian UN rep. Wouldn't he be a natural to come up to Montreal for a public meeting? A meeting addressed by him would launch the committee off with a certain dignity which is desirable. It would be very good for our sponsors and persons sought to be sponsors. It would seem to me that we could expect that he would be prepared to come up from very close New York city. I would think that his presence would assure a very successful meeting and in fact a successful meeting would be of some influence on the Algerians to more seriously consider the question you raise about their having a charge d'affaires, or government representative of some kind in Canada. It would perhaps seem to be expecting too much that Ben Bella himself would come up. I gather he is due in the UN shortly. But for a man of Ben Bella's type, with Montreal being the largest French city outside of France, he just might be willing to come up. Just a hunch.

Money to help the committee underway. How did Silberman's old man react. How much do you need? Yes of course you need a small brochure outlining the problems in ALGERIA, and the intentions of the committee. It need not be very elaborate. If no one there has the money to initiate this, because as soon as we have this off the press you can get the money without too much trouble--why of course we will make such a loan. Even better too. We have finally broke down and got a new reconditioned mimeograph machine. Pioneer just gave us an order for 1,000 Tripoli Program and 1000 Trade Unions in the Imperialist Epoch. Fair Play wants another 1,000 Fuentes so we bought a machine with electric operation, a stripper and automatic inker. The trade in offer was low and I know we will need machines elsewhere so we have kept the old machine, which by the way is in first rate condition. We are prepared to give this to our Montreal branch--in your keeping until we gain sufficient strength to get a place. Next time someone comes to Toronto or goes to Montreal we could get it delivered to you. You saw it with the base. It is actually not awkward or heavy. and of course it is a very fine machine. This would be a big help to the committee. You could let them do any necessary work on it. Perhaps you could phone Gordon Garbig to see if he is coming in here shortly. He would gladly pick it up



With regards to the constitution of the committee itself. Yes I think that you should be in the background but there however. ~~Important~~ Pontaut seems to be able to move around effectively ~~xxx~~ very effectively among the types of people we want for sponsors. She obviously has their confidence that they are not going to be used--misused. In this respect you are getting underway under much better circumstances than FPFCC did here. Here since there was no one, not even Vern who had the complete confidence of what sponsors we had, the constitution of the executive was important to reassure the sponsors of the responsibility and "safety" of the committee. While in your case this does not appear to be an emergency it seems to me that it must be met---that there has to be an executive of persons who are in a sense representative and acceptable to those who are going to query the committee. I think you have to be on the executive to help Pontaut but that you cannot be prominent. You are not the type of person and cannot be a shadow character. You might consider the idea of striking off an executive which is highly acceptable to all and then at a subsequent meeting that executive could ask to be approved of and you could be recommended to the meeting to be on the widened executive.

~~Handwritten note: I will write Pontaut today with regards to the Algerian work. Will send you a carbon copy. Did I tell you about a young fellow Serge Huard up in Grandmere?~~

I will write Pontaut today with regards to the Algerian work. Will send you a carbon copy. Did I ~~give you~~ tell you about a young fellow Serge Huard up in Grandmere?

Will pick up this letter within a few days. And how do you find Montreal I mean personally

Warmest regards

Ross



81 Queen Street W  
Toronto, Ont.  
October 14, 1963

Madame Dincart-Pontaut  
3777 St Urbain  
Montreal, Que

Dear Friend;

Last summer while visiting Europe I had the opportunity to visit Algeria---to attend the European Conference of Non-Governmental Aid held in Algiers.

Since my return I have done what I could to acquaint the Canadian people with the inspiring developments there and to aid the Algerians in their tremendous task of reconstruction.

Late this summer I spoke over several major radio programs in the Vancouver and Regina-Saskatoon area. I have written articles in both the Canadian socialist paper Workers Vanguard and the U.S. socialist weekly the Militant. I have received an enquiry from a Canadian construction engineer as to the possibility of his going to Algeria to aid there. And I have written to the Algerian Bureau National pour L'Assistance Europeenne non gouvernementale a L'Algerie to see what could be done here to obtain agricultural equipment parts which I understand they are in grave need of.

On September 14th I received a letter from the bureau in Algeria that you are now active in the building of a Canadian committee to aid Algeria. The bureau asks me to contact you to see what is possible to do in this area and to transmit to you various documents of the June Algeria Conference.

I am most anxious to collaborate in anyway that I can. Under separate cover I am sending to you certain material I have on the June Conference. You will pardon certain scribblings as I had no idea that I would be passing them on to anyone else. I am also enclosing copies of correspondence as I think that this work should be centralized through you. In a short while I will be sending you a transcript of one of the broadcasts I had the good fortune to make.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

81 Queen Street W  
fraternally,  
October 17, 1963

Ross Dowson







or anything else--let me know and I will put one of those clips that you sent into a box. Yes I would certainly like to see that Professor's speech--whether we reproduce any part of it or not.

will write later

warmest regards

Ross



November 12, 1963

Montreal

John (Riddell)

Dear Dick

Alan Harris' address is 361 Stanstead Road  
London S.E. 6  
England

He is no hell as a letter writer but on the basis of a recent complaint ~~from~~ ~~he~~ he has promised to send a note once a month---we are now overdue. He would certainly be pleased to hear from you. He is now working full time for the movement there---on a three month trial. The movement on this side of the water has a much more serious organizational outlook. They don't raise much money and they count heavily on ~~themselves~~ after hours contributions from persons who are sometimes very brilliant but whom are seriously circumscribed on this basis. The movement is amateurish in this way, doesn't appear to have a long range plugging work in depth outlook but gives you the impression that it is waiting to be confronted with the big opportunity. Alan's first task will be to keep the headquarters open, sweep the floor, clean the windows, and get literature circulating and meetings being held on a regular basis. When after a while he will have to come to grips with the publication of the paper---which hasn't come out ~~since~~ for about a year now. He is spending a lot of time promoting literature here there and everywhere. Carolyn Kerry tells me that he has put the ISR in the big CP bookstore but I think she must mean Collett's and that it has sold out. He sold seven pounds ~~worth~~ of Cuban literature at the LP convention. His article in World Outlook on the convention was very good I thought---we just didn't have space to pick it up. He will be able to fill you in on international developments of course as he attends all the meetings held in Paris.

I am hoping that by now you are getting World Outlook. I was misled to believe that the \$7.50 I sent in for it would bring it airmail. ~~It~~ Surely you must have it now---the last few issues ~~have~~ have had the most important material on the SLL and Newsletter. ---and expose of their rotten position on the Kabylie uprising. They support this counter-revolutionary group of adventurers. I do not see how such a position could fail to stir up opposition in the SLL, how it could fail to make it a laughing stock amongst the better elements in the "fake" left. Perhaps Alan will be able to fill this in.

Glad you like the material put together by John and Phil on workers democracy. We unfortunately had to leave some things out ---as it was it pushed Algeria off the page. Phil will probably have more to add---I have written to him suggesting it would be good for this coming issue. As you must have noticed we did not name the author. The appeals are still ahead of us. The pamphlet idea is a good one but there is this difficulty and a couple of others that we will have to see our ways clear through. John has been getting invites to speak---he has spoken at a couple of high schools and at a Zionist youth group and they are a couple of more coming up. I sent the Militant galley proofs but haven't heard from them.

Searched this morning's Globe and Mail in vain for additional material on Castro's purge Marinelle, former chairman of the PSP and rector of U of H and the head of the youth movement. With his troop withdrawn as it would seem that K is putting the heat of Castro to accept the proposition of a Latin American meaning Cuban nuclear free zone. This little even will have bigger repercussions











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I suppose one could reasonably expect that we can hope to get this and that person each more impressive than the last if we continue to delay a bit. Of course it is important that the first sponsors be not such of a character as to warp it and twist it in its growth. But when the Kabylie event took place, then the Moroccan war with the US supporting Hassem broke out I was wondering what this would do to our committee. And then as Ben Bella continued to go to the left. I was torn I tell you real torn ~~indecisive~~ and upset that his going to the left would hurt the committee, our little committee over here in Canada. You will no doubt recall what Castro's confiscation of US imperialist holdings did to our Cuba Committee as it continued to go socialist we lost all our precious respectable sponsors. ~~Time~~ Time to this extent is operating against us and so I hope that we pull it off this week--particularly when Ded is still here in Canada for I gather she is quite key in all this. It would be a real coup to have a mass meeting for the UN delegate at the university. We should make sure that his speech if it is not a written one is taped for reproduction by the committee

From what I know I am very much in favor of your remaining on the New Left executive. We set too high a standard or level of activity and participation for ourselves on such bodies. While generally we should be examples and pace setters no one is going to be able to say aye or naye if we merely hold ~~the~~ a post in such an organization as about 99% of the rest of the executivemembers do. It is good to have listening posts, to have prestige positions and to have positions which should the melieu prove valuable can be developed into something. Generally no one expects very much of anyone else in such bodies and there is no reason why we should not accept the general standard of activity unless we think it is necessary and we are in a position to do more.

Found your comments on Cameron interesting--they affirm all our experiences. This was his role in Regina. He was the person that the right wing placed on the platform to present their substitute for a policy of nationalization. His record in the house is really rotten and always has been. "The Statesman." Naomi when she was down your way attempted to contact you but you were not in. I felt that we were doing very well that way. Surely Pat dropped in on you. And didn't you have even two visitors in the persons of Peter and Peter. At anyrate Pat must have filled you in. Before leaving she carried out an tremendous burst of activity. We haven't heard from her yet but she left reluctantly and with big plans of seeing what she could do in Halifax. The everyother week branch meeting and in between times the meeting of two sections seems to be working out alright. There are some difficulties of course. The attendance at the branch meeting hasn't been really up to scratch but I think we are more on top of our work. The executive is having to function more efficiently and I would say that generally it has measured up to the task. For the first time we have what looks like a really effective, a really serious social committee. Last Saturdays social at the co-op was a really big success---and we made \$50. Cliff seems to be grasping the job of organizer well. His reports which of course are becoming more important are quite good. He is doing quite a bit of contact work and we have distributed over the past week almost 8,000 copies of the leaflet on trusteeship. This leaflet got a very good reception at Massey Harris. Nic O came down to tell us and thinks that it would be a good idea if we would do it more often. In fact I am thinking that even though there are not yet any big avenues of activity open in the unions that we should attempt to set up a militant caucus which at this stage would satisfy itself with putting out a leaflet on some matter of importance from time to time which they as individuals would circulate amongst their contacts and we could distribute on a big scale ~~in~~ plant gates. Dennis Bright of the UE thinks it a good idea. Aside from the Vanguard his article in his local UE paper is the only good article that I have seen on the trusteeship. The AFL international reps and others who are opposed have kept silent. There was lots of opposition at the OFL convention last week but it had no voice.

It seems to me that the two communications on Vancouver should have filled you in more or less---and I must go anyway  
warmest regards  
Ross



3  
(5) three of us distributed the paper  
Did Peter tell you about the little to do at Buck's meeting in Hamilton and the  
edit in the Star--canada's biggest circualtion--which started

Last Saturday was an historic day in the history of the far, far left  
in Ontario. The Chinese Communist party made its first appearance in  
Canada at a meeting of the orthodox Russian-style Communists.  
It was a somewhat paradoxical affair. The Chinese Communists were not  
Chinese but white men. They were appratently Trotskyites who had wandered  
homeless--ideologically speaking--since their glorious leaders, Leon  
Trotsky.....

Incolnclusive as the debate was, (appratnely they mean some heckle)  
it has served to launch the Chinese Communist Party(nom-Mongolian  
division) in Canada.....

Glad you liked the pamphlet on the Sino-Soviet dispute. Only managed to sell  
4 in Hamilton and seven in the Toronto RR celebration night. They had one  
Chinese in their audience and we had three. We are off



*Handwritten telegram, Nov. 15, 1963 (sent in French)*

Parti Socialiste du Québec  
Édifice Charest  
155 Boulevard Charest  
Ville de Québec, Québec

Greetings and salutations to your founding convention.

We anticipate with the greatest confidence that your deliberations will lay firm foundations for the construction of a mass Quebec Socialist Party.

We are firm in our conviction that such a party in its leadership of the struggle to win the liberation of the working people of Quebec from capitalist exploitation, through the building of a new society upon the common ownership of the means of production will find a full collaboration with the parallel struggle being waged by English-speaking socialists both in Canada and the United States.

Cuba – where the flower of democracy, selflessness and dedication to the cause of socialist justice is in full bloom – is the opening phase of this great challenge to capitalist imperialist exploitation of the Americas.

With this beginning which has demonstrated an unconquerable spirit, your efforts and those of English-speaking socialists in the rest of Canada guided by the great traditions of scientific socialism will win. With firm expressions of solidarity,

Ross Dowson,  
Secretary of the League for Socialist Action, and  
Editor of the Vanguard,  
81 Queen St. W., Toronto



November 17, 1963

Montreal

Dear Dick

I have just finished really reading your report of the CCND conference---I ~~mean~~ really reading it. I had only scanned it before and my overwhelming impression ~~was~~ too long, too long. But now I have read it for publication in the paper. Yes, it is too long and I have cut it. But I must say that it is a very fine report, an excellent report. It looks to me like at last in you we have found a journalist. This is a great source of satisfaction to me for I am not one. I have felt that Ernie has the makings of a good journalist but he has to overcome his lack of formal education. But other than Ernie I have felt that we did not yet have anything until I read your report.

I sent a night letter as you suggested to the PSQ convention. Claire translated it into ~~English~~ French. A most peculiar translator. When she comes to parts that are somewhat difficult she leaves them out. I caught two and was generally not very pleased with the translation however I do not have sufficient grasp to handle the matter myself. Did they post any of the greetings. A small matter which you should explain to me some time you have a chance. In the address you sent me you end up Etat du Quebec. I have some reservations about the use of such a phrase. While we recognize the bi-national character of Canada, Quebec is legally a province. I am opposed to our calling it a province and when the subs came in from the last tour I had the plates typed up just plain Quebec--a geographical area. By using the phrase are we merely trying to make propaganda? I question the value. And at anyrate isn't the phrase essentially separatist?

I gather from your letter that you are going to be able to find time right after the PSQ convention to send in a detailed newsarticle. I am therefore holding up the paper until we receive this material. I take it that will be around Wednesday or so. We have the same situation with the BC convention and I have wired Ernie to see if he thinks he can make this issue. I would not think of writing an editorial on the PSQ until such time as I had seen your report. And as you suggest it would be best that you see it before it goes to press--in my opinion it would be best that you write it--for I am not sure until I read your report what its theme should be. I think we should leave the matter of editorial comment until the next issue. We will be going to press early because of the holiday season---besides I want to allocate some time to take a shot at a document on ~~the~~ Quebec. We need to start a serious discussion and I am looking forward to your contribution.

Yes I think it would be a good idea to take up Lewis and companies attack on the PSQ. It must be very educational for there is a great ignorance even in the left on this whole question of nationalism. Oliver Brewin and company had to defend what the PSQ



would consider much too little before the ignorance and centralist concepts that are not only held by NDP ranks right across the country but particularly by the BC left. We have an important educational role to play here. We certainly need such an article but again it does not have to appear in this issue, or even the next one for that matter.

I spoke to Bob about writing you again over his delay in heading your way. I do not know whether he has done so yet but I was talking to him this morning at the picket line on Dominion Luggage. It seems that finally the union organizer is moving out and has managed to sign up 25 people so the project is starting to roll. Naturally enough in such a situation Bob is reluctant to just pull out and thereby appearing to be unconcerned about the success of the drive. He is most anxious to get working with you. Last branch meeting he gave what he announced as his last testament on the Fair Play situation.

Thanks for the carbon copy of your letter to Vern. A meeting under Fair Play auspices has ~~not~~ been all but arranged. Just need to set the date at the latter end of his stay here. Fair Play had already booked its annual meeting--the 26th I think --with John speaking. And they want Silverman to be on in December as far as possible. Vern phoned me an hour or so ago to tell me that he has heard from Waterloo and it is not possible to do anything there. It appears that the work load is just too much this year on their courses. Art came in last weekend but Bob doesn't feel he can even spare that. They are putting in for Algeria--on that student project. As soon as we hear from Silverman we will arrange a Vanguard forum for him. If possible we will try to hold it after he has spoken to Fair Play. I do not see why he should <sup>not</sup> speak at both. There is a membership drive on in Fair Play and they have wider possibilities than we. Vern has not yet spoken to our U of T people and I will do so next time they are here.

The provincial council meeting came off. It was greeted by Al and Jean distributing the enclosed. But this appeal apparently evoked no response. Val Scott presented a far reaching criticism of the party which seems to me to be a sort of swan song. The leadership dealt with it at this meeting and of course was able to do a job on it. Scott dismisses Quebec as being reactionary, the farm population as being hopelessly and suggested that we should go to the petit bourgeois with breasts bare asking them to dictate to us a program. The brass will find these suggestions a ready foil but nonetheless we may utilize the criticism to open a wedge for our own. I hear Sinicropoli and Lorne Engle along with Bury made a left criticism of the party policy.

Everyone is getting ready for the youth convention. We have had real work shops pouring through the files getting material so our contributions will be effective.

but I must away

warmest regards

Ross



December 6, 1963

Workers Vanguard  
Box 140 Station N  
Montreal 18, 1963

*How Fidler*

Dear Bob and Dick

Well it looks pretty good to me and I am sure it will look good to all our comrades and to our readers too--those who have some understanding that we are dead serious. Not some little discussion circle that puts out a nice paper and has a few young fine people who go to meetings making thoughtful contributions but who are out to establish working class rule in this country. I see I hesitated to use the word socialism as expressing our aim as it conjures up in many minds the pleasantries after instead of the dead serious work right ahead of us.

Not that we werent in business before but with the box as a beginning we are doing it up formally now. In a more sober mood--we made this beginning before. I dont recall if we had a public address I think we must have. We published a mimeographed journal even. I must send you a file. But the times were different and so were the comrades upon which all the actions were based. Without discounting Murray's contribution to the movement, he was lazy, he had an element of personal vanity which stood in the way of his being a Bolshevik himself and encouraging others in that direction, and he had a positive dread of taking decisions. Jean too for all his good points was in capable of building anything. Very emotional in his approach and somewhat superficial--incapable of working in depth. But of course the main thing was the times---quite different from today--fundamentally different so that it was difficult to overreach the limitations of those with the responsibilities. There is no doubt that Jean is capable of playing a much better role today and of course we all are. For Trotskyism never had it so good and it can only get better.

*more  
Jean (Beland)*

Got the correction on the address just after I had sent Pierre the wrong one---so have added fifteen cents on your bill. I have had Pierre change the address on Bob's World Outlook to the box. The first one came here today and we have re-addressed it. I am also asking him to ship the book order that Dick felt we needed direct but to send us both copies of the invoice so that we can handle your account. I understand that Bob is having his Militant sub readdressed and once you get settled down and can survey the area will handle a ISR bundle direct also. ~~RM~~

You should have received the sub blanks with the latest Militant wrapped around them. As for copy paper. I hope you have about \$1.75 to buy some unused LM sheets. By the time we paid postage on the paper I cut at Merchants we wouldn't be saving a cent I am sure. Save



the other paper that you have been using for writing as test sheets for when you start using the mimeograph machine.

I am not sure how long Bob and Edith will be staying in Canada. They will be leaving for Montreal first thing Saturday morning and unfortunately I have myself not had a real discussion with them. They have been tied up with meetings, been sleeping in. Bob strikes me as not being very robust. His FP speech was very poor. Edith who he practically cut out did a much better job. I spent a few hours prior to the U of T meeting to tell him how he should handle his material, how to speak etc. Apparently others expressed their opinion of the FP speech. At anyrate the U of T meeting was a big success. John tells me that they did very well--some 28 out, new faces. The week previously Leslie Morris drew seven for the CP club. Today Bob and Edith are speaking at York and tonight at our forum. Bob is a very fine man. Very serious--in his own way. A little strange for instance I cannot understand who wrote the Militant article---he says it isn't his but it appears that parts are--and whose else could it be. A trifle removed from the practical world. But Edith has both feet on the ground. Her comments don't show any particular depth but she is very serious. She had apparently been giving some serious thought to the FP performance and entered into our talk with some lengthy notes and then a one page condensation. As I talked to Bob stressing the points and the notes suggesting exactly what should be done--and there he was with pen and paper before him--he listened and hardly seemed to react, put down scarcely anything. But John said that he apparently thought highly of my comments.

Jerry and Ruth had them over for the evening. And he is taking some three hundred dollars worth of key books back with him. No doubt they had serious words. I am hoping that you will have some with him. The article in the Militant that I thought and think was his is very good. I am not so sure of his judgement when it comes to evaluating more complex developments in Cuba but I think we should encourage him to write us. There is nothing like writing to aid the maturing process. We can do with the odd item and anything we can't handle which we think worthwhile we can send to the Militant.

Incidentally we were talking about the importance of our colonization in Montreal and our bookstore here. I happened to tell him that we would like to set up a bookstore--both in Montreal and Vancouver and he asked me why not now-- I said money. He asked me how much. I said we would need a minimum of \$2,000. He said that this was possible. Now I hope to have a talk with him before he leaves and I will steer it onto this matter. This is a serious proposition in my mind. Either in Montreal or Vancouver. I tend to favor Vancouver at this time. So with some skill you might edge around to this question for if there is any possibility in this direction I would think that it has to be settled before they leave.

I understand that Bob's cooking is quite good. But I would caution you when he talks about getting his still into operation.

warmest regards

Ross



December 9 , 1963

(F)  
Dear Dick;

Have just received the article of the Federation des Travailleurs du Quebec. Excellent! In return mail I have sent you a copy of the Algerian magazine ~~you~~ mentioned in World Outlook, along with latest Peking Reviews.

~~Last~~ Vern left on Saturday but before leaving told me that there may well be another invitation come through to Cuba. We agreed that it would not be particularly good for Anne to pick it up. He only had two suggestions in Toronto who could be approached who might be useful in a broader sense to the committee-- Cathers and White. I said no. Thought it over last night and struck on the idea of suggesting that a PSQer go, then there is our cultural drive to consider that never really got off the ground. The results are--we have just sent a registered letter off the Chartrand asking him if he would like to go and the need to have a pass port. In the letter to him we suggest if it was not possible for him to go could he suggest some other responsible leading PSQer. Steeves has offered to take up the Vancouver quota if and when it comes through. Of course this all depends on the Cubans coming across. We have also sent a letter to the poet Al Purdy who is one of the most promising of the younger poets and is very close to us. I think that if the PSQ doesn't pick this one up and he does something good would come from him.

The letter to Chartrand of course was sent in Vern's name to the PSQ headquarters registered. I do not see that you need to know about it other than as information. Seems to me that it would be very good if Chartrand were to pick the offer up if or when it comes through in the next couple of weeks. Will let you know how he responds --of course would like your opinion of anyone who he might recommend in his stead.

Warmest Regards

looking forward to the Algerian press release



December 12, 1963

Dear Dick

We received ~~you~~the information re Chartrand going to Cuba and so have made another couple of moves. With the Montreal staff of the Cubans being as it is it might seem that FP may not have to take on the responsibility of trying to assure that specially favourable types get there. We now have feelers out to Al Purdy--one of Canada's most promising young poets who is very friendly to us--to Joe and Milt. He told me when he came back from a stay in Vancouver that he missed the Vanguard very much as he did not know what to think about all the news developments without it. We have also got a feeler out to Gerry Gallagher Of the Toronto Laborers. I am sitting on a letter made out to Hugh Garner the novelist and Pat is contacting a leader in the Student Christian Movement--a Shriely something.

Middleton dropped in this morning to say that Fidel Castro made an announcement about the arrival of Vern and Anne in Cuba this morning --it was reproted over the Toronto stations too it seems. Rather interesting

We are right now up to our necks with not only the paper but a big literary to do here--slated for December 21 all afternoon. So far we have Gwen McEwen, Al Purdy, Raymond Souster, John Colombo, Hugh Garner slated to participate. And with this galaxy of stars it seems that we can get almost anyone and we cannot possibly have more. I have just spoken to Robert Weaver, literary critic for the Star and the CBC and he says yea he would like to handle the panel but would I phone him tomorrow to see if he is free for sure. I dont know whether you are hept but the above names are tops among the younger Canadian poets with Garner the most ~~unhappily~~ outspoken. The literary event of the year. I had originally intended to participate ~~whom~~ but Professor Dewart with regret told us that he was going to be unavailable and so he pulled out our only straight political contributor so we have gone literary.

Will write at length shortly

All your material is into the printers--translated and worked up the press release on the Algerian committee--putting a box in close by about Algeria in the World

warmest regards

Ross

Looked down on the floor of a subway car I was travelling on the other night to see Varsity and the enclosed item



Dec 25, 1963

Montreal

Dear Dick

All the comrades are hoping that you will be able to get a run into Toronto during the holidays. The clan has gathered—stand Bob, Gordon, Brian from Regina, a couple of Kenyans. There will be a big to-do within a couple of hours. I am waiting for Lois to pick me up and take me out to the bosom of my family. But all the rest are taking over the headquarters—Harry has cooked a couple of turkeys, John is now decorating the Christmas tree which is just big enough to replace the rabbit ears so that we won't be able to catch the Queen's message over the TV. The table tennis equipment is all up stairs for the contest to see who is champ.

Too bad you are not here. However so your time won't be a complete waste—although I would imagine you would be reading otherwise—when you get into St John next run here are a couple of names and addresses that might be worthwhile dropping in on C.R. Myers, 210 Main, St John—appears to be NDP organizer—old CCFer socialist, knows everyone and gave tour leads, bought \$2 worth of lit and sub, very friendly.

Mrs J. Hay—116 Pitt St, St. John—card says Door to Door, interested in socialist ideas

G.H. Wheaton—87 Milleage Ave.—sold at NB FOf L convention, trade unionist  
Agnes Fullerton 254 King St East—used to live in Montreal—CCF leftist, met at Regina CCF Ntl Convention, spoke to Winny bought ISR.

So you can see we actually don't have very much down there—but have a go!

Glad to get the press release on the Algerian committee. The press here carried not a word. Until I read your note that Le Monde carried something via Canadian Press I was thinking that it was not picked up at all. Really surprising that not one of the three papers here said anything. I see someone sent ~~some~~ some material on it to World Outlook. It would seem to me that they and not Joe H scaled down the impressive list of sponsors. The WO report played up the PSQ connected persons and said not a word about the editors—in-chief. I think that it would be preferable that the person who sent out the release show it to you when possible.

I see things are underway. Then people is a very good meeting. Did you get my clipping on what the International student body is doing the coming term to get books for Algeria. It would be good if someone were to contact them to give them a hand. Probably all French books would go to Algeria—none to Yugoslavia. With such a list of eminent persons as sponsors of the committee we should be able to move in out and everywhere. I was thinking the other day of the possibility of your going to see a fellow I know who might be able to give us a real break on Algeria from a press point of view and might even take us further. His name is Ken Johnstone. Possibly now that we are in the holidays it would be the best time to try to contact him. The meeting would be interesting even if it turned out unrewarding.

Ken used to be very active back in the thirties—veryable, quite sophisticated. When I joined the movement his mother's home in Mount Dennis (Weston) was the centre of that branch's activities. If you have read Birney's Down the Long Table you will see that the Johnstone family is the centre piece of the book. I don't know what name they fly under in the novel but it is hardly even disguised.



(formally)

Ken never broke from us, he just moved into Montreal, and we lost contact. It was not long before he made a considerable name for himself as a journalist—a sort of feature writer—first for the Montreal Star or Standard, then he got material into McLean's, Liberty and elsewhere. Some of the stuff was real crap, and very compromising but most of it was essay material from a bon vivant. Up until recently he was an editor of McLean's. Last thing I saw was his handsome face decorating some ball point advertisement everywhere to the effect that he uses these ball points exclusively. My impression is that is that his interests are now very far removed from radical politics. I understand he has accumulated a bit of dough. I doubt aht we can get any of it. But no doubt he is still writing. And it may well be possible to interest him in Algeria. You could take some World outlooks to him. And even should he prove uninterested he knows many people. I really dont know what will come out of such a visit. You could get his address from McLean's or the Montreal Star I would think. If I recall correctly he lives somewhere on the outskirts of Montreal in a house that is of some historic if not antiquarian character that has been made over. Probably the best and most simple introduction would be that you are an old friend of Mine and Jean-Marie. I had meant to tell you of him before but now that you are on your holidays and we have a bit of an angle with regards to Algeria this might be the occasion. And while I am at it there is another fellow that we know through Ken, his name is Louis Jaques—he is a top photographer—sooner or later when you have nothing to do ?? you might find out where he is located and drop in on him. He is good for a drink. at least. These two fellows know all kinds of people—some of whom might just be useful sometime. Of course if they should prove interested in anyway at all they would have to be handled with the utmost discretion.

I suppose there is really no need to discuss various ideas with regards to the committee as you appear certain to be coming in shortly. Can you speak to Denise about ~~xxxxxxxx~~ her coming in when you do. Is that practical? We can put her up without difficulty--Pat M would probably be pleased to have her stay with her.

Anne O phoned in to her home this morning to the kids with a couple of messages. It seems that Fidel actually came out to the airport to welcome them to the island. We managed to get the bulletin off a couple of days ago and airmailed several copies down there so that they would arrive while they were there on the spot. An impressive picture of FPCC I think. We also raised the matter via mail that they should investigate the possibility while there if seeing what can be done to arrange a Canadian student work brigade going to Cuba the coming summer to aid in hurricane flora reconstruction. If we could get solid commitments to organize a team of 20 students it would be a real feather in the committee's cap.

I did not manage to get this note finished yesterday. Had expected to get it off earlier today but Vern also asked that we get another pamphlet out right away so I took time out to prepare it for electronic stencil.....We can hope to get the stencils done tomorrow and thus get on the mimeo machine over the weekend.

The teamsters is blowing up--but I will send a letter to the box. Et Meilleures Souhaits pour la Nouvelle Année to you

affectionately

Ross

letter got mangled as I was carrying it in my pocket.



December 26, 1963

(John (MML))

Dear Dick and Bob;

Hope you had a good Christmas. We had a big feed with all the trimmings in the hall yesterday. Harry and Diane prepared a meal for 18 guests and it appears to have been a big success. The staff will be having turkey soup, then potatoe soup for the next couple of weeks. There was a tree and all. Of course others among us spent the day with their families. I can say without any hesitation that I would have much preferred to have been at 81. Rosenthal sat in the chesterfield in a corner and read a book. Murray with no understanding of psychology whatever teased the children. I gave the two Rosenthal kids copies of the YSF and in return got a drawing of a closed fist salute so there are some possibilities--in the kids--but some of them are very young--in the four and five year bracket. Carson went over to spend the Christmas in Rochester. John R spent it up at the Joliffe's and so on.

Well I thought you culture vultures when you got that elegant invitation to our literary ~~sham~~ soire if you didn't hot foot in here would have been all a ga for the news. Nathan Cohen had a comment in his Friday column that ours was the literary event of the weekend. The G & M mentioned us in their week to do column. It measured up to my most sanguine expectations. All the guests turned up but for Hugh Garner. The audience filled all our chairs and another thirty but two that we rented. That means we had over the 80 to 85 mark. Everyone was impressed and expressed a fervent desire that we hold another and another--perhaps on a regular basis. Star of the guests was our own Joe Rosenblatt. I mean it. Joe read several of his own poems and it was apparent to everyone that he was the most effective reader. And while his poetry is not as polished as Purdy's I think that everyone there recognized the effectiveness of its imagery. I am now trying to talk him into writing a series of interconnected poems on a grand theme of social significance such as the fight against the third world war. Mandel carried the panel. But perhaps the best contribution came from the floor--Harry K no less. I had to stand on the sidelines after turning it over to the panel but we put that little item out by Diego Rivera and Andre Breton to make sure at least some of our ideas got a hearing. While Purdy gave a fine reading he was a flop as a panelist. We are now thinking in terms of holding another late in January possibly inviting the top graphic artists in the Toronto area. The trouble is that they take quite a bit of organizing and unfortunately I am the only comrade known to these types so it falls on me. But with the graphic artists Berkowitz will probably be a big help.

I myself think that this type of affair held in the back of our bookstore is very valuable for us. I have to ~~sh~~ laugh--the CP ~~box~~ with its bookstore as a front holds a book fair at Cecil Street. Big attraction is a tape recording of some comments by Farley Mowat. The last several issues of the Tribune have been giving a fabulous play to a novel by a Herman Buller. Well we had him as a panelist in the flesh. This type of affair is a pretige affair for us--word gets around everywhere. And the way the CP and the NDP is trying to characterize us along with the RCMP it does us considerable good it seems to me to have some of the literatti identify themselves with us. Yes--quite a kick in the ass for the RCMP campaign against us. And they are campaigning against us too. A couple of weeks ago they dropped in on Gerry Gallagher to tell him about his daughters association with us.



D

I and John spent quite a bit of time over the last month on the FPCC bulletin. Vern tossed it too me as he was leaving. What do you think of it--should be very ~~gonna~~ useful for him to pass around while he is there in order to give anyone interested a picture of FPCC work. I have airmailed about 20 copies to various persons who I think he will be coming in contact with over the next two weeks. A couple of weeks ago a member of FPCC told everyone that she had heard a broadcast to the effect that Castro welcomed Vern and Anne upon arrival. She heard it over a local station. I figured he probably said something over the radio. Yesterday Anne phoned in from Havana to 21 Ellis and told them there that Fidel actually came out to the airport to meet them as they landed. Quite a significant action it seems to me. In Canadian political circles FPCC is very much marked. It is continually being Trotsky baited in the local NDP and NDP youth. And Cuban government officials certainly know what is what in so far as it is concerned in Canada. Vern told me that he had a very frank talk with Cruz about his relations with us. I dropped into see the consul here the other day and mentioned in passing the Tribune with all the material on Kennedy. He told me that he was sick at his stomach when he read it--awful, awful. We have proposed to Vern via letter that he see what he can do from that end with arranging for a squad of Canadian students going to Cuba this coming summer to participate in some of the works projects connected with damage from Flora. It seems to me to be a very practical project and if we can swing it we will be wanting several Montreal students to join in.

We have another big project thrust upon us now--the teamsters. We have managed to work up a slate with Jimmy H running for vice-president Don J for trustee along with some other militants. Doherty along with Merritt have worked up a slate of their own with the former heading it for president against a fellow we are supporting--Aldred. Merritt is now using his position as secretary treasurer to knock out slate out of the firing. He is making fantastic formal rulings as to eligibility of the nominees. Aldred is in a plant where there is a checkoff as is Don J. It appears that the companies in both cases delayed by a few days in forwarding the dues that they had deducted and so Merritt has ruled both ineligible. The company has of course picked off Jim H--he lost his appeal to the board. But it so happens that while he is no longer working under the local's jurisdiction he was eligible on nomination day so he still stands. Eddy Muise who we are running as trustee has just been fired by MacAnnally--they are arguing it out tomorrow morning. We are appealing to Hoffas with regards to Aldred and Don and if necessary will get an injunction against the elections. This looks like it is all or nothing--the next elections will be five years away and the union brass is openly collaborating with the bosses to clean out the militants. Did your local press carry reports on Charlie Walkers appeal to the labor relations board--an important test case of the new law which prohibits the firing of a worker who is not in a union which has a closed shop arrangement. I can see that this is going to take up a lot of our time in the next month.

Got your press release on the Algerian Committee as you can see from the Vanguard. Very very impressive. Don Oman will be writing the committee is he has not already done so. This is just a preliminary move until we can get together and talk about the possibilities here. But you have certainly given the whole project a brilliant start. I have never seen such an array. Well I guess the first project is along the lines of the clipping I sent you on the world student bodies collecting books for the library of the Algiers University.



Nodoubt you noticed the item on the CHinese-Canadian Friendship Committee that has been organized in Vancouver This is the work of the Vancouver Maoists. It appears that the CP fraction in the NDP is almost all Maoist Jack Scott(not the Sun correspondent ) is their leading spokesman, Ernie has been talking with him on a friendly plain. He dismisses the rest of the CP which they are apparently considerably outside of--held off for security reasons along with others. We have some comeades in the Chinese Cdn outfit--Phil and several others. Beott has asked us to be modest in our support as they dont want to play into the hands of the Trotsky baiters. It appears that there are moves afoot to set up such a committee here in Toronto. According to a friend here two of the top persons interested are Norman Endicott--a Maoist--and his father a khrushchevist. But they have done anything publicly yet. Cliff had a talk with Johnson who was polite and friendly and said he would be down to the sotre shortly. Today he went up to see Norman Endicott. We are trying to confront these two with our ideas--it will be interesting to see with what success. Personally I dont see much of a perspective for a CHinese Cdn Assn but ~~knex~~ it may be the only way that the Maoist elements will be able to pull together. Of course if that is the way they are going to try to carry the struggle we will have to move in and around rapidly to see who we can bring into the struggle. Keep you ears and eyes open in this direction. Have you had time to make any connections of any kind with the Montreal Maoists? I would like very much to be kept posted.

Big success in Vancouver banquet--yes.

But I see it is 12;15 and since I will not be able to touch this tomorrow as I am slated to give the forum I am forced to send this note on as it is.

Looking forward to seeing you here shortly Dick. All the clan has gathered from State Penn, Waterloo, Regina etc. And how is the job Bob.

warmest regards

Ross



Dec 31/63

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Toronto, CANADA

L'Algerie Dans Le Monde  
26 rue Ben M'hidi  
Larbi-Alger  
Algerie

Dear Friends;

It was with great satisfaction that we received a couple of weeks ago some advance copies of L'Algerie Dans Le Monde. It appears to me to be exactly what is wanted to acquaint the workers of the rest of the world with the great struggle that I had the honor of witnessing when I visited your country last summer as a participant in the European Conference of Non-Governmental Aid

I have published a short comment on this happy event in the pages of Workers Vanguard which I edit.

In the same issue of Workers Vanguard we were able to announce the formation of L'Association d'Aide et de Solidarite Quebec -Algerie in the city of Montreal. It is probable that this committee has already sent you a copy of their press release. We here in English speaking Canada are looking forward to the formation of this committee in French speaking Quebec where there is already a feeling of sympathy for the Algerian people to help us get a wider hearing in the rest of the country. It should also help to open up the situation in United States.

Yesterday we received a large bundle--some 80 copies I think of L'Algerie dans Le Monde. Thank you very much. But since very few persons in ~~the~~ Canada other than Quebec read French we have taken the liberty of forwarding them to the Montreal Committee. This bundle will be a big help to them in their work.

In the same mail we received 5 copies of the French and five of the English pamphlet Documents on Self-Management(Auto-Gestion) This will be extremely valuable to us. I have sent the French-language copies to the Montreal Committee and I am now in the process of placing the English version where I think it will be most appreciated.

But we would like many more copies of the pamphlet--the English version sent to my address as above. Would you please send us 100 copies. We would be pleased to contribute to the cost of printing and mailing. We would like them just as soon as possible.

I think that the Montreal Committee  
will be wanting a considerable  
number

fraternally

Ross Dowson